

Upsurge of violence in New Caledonia puts pressure on Chirac

Cabinet crisis talks on eve of French poll

From Susan Macdonald, Paris, and Christopher Morris, Sydney

France flew military reinforcements into New Caledonia yesterday after three gendarmes were killed and 27 captured by Kanak separatists.

The rebels' action turned the troubled Pacific territory into an election crisis issue on the eve of the French presidential polls.

M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, held a two-hour emergency Cabinet meeting in Paris yesterday and then briefed his election rival, President Mitterrand, on the situation by telephone.

M Bernard Pons, the Minister for Overseas Territories, denounced "these serious events carried out by a squad of 30 terrorists".

put the problem of the South Pacific French territory on the centre stage of French politics.

Three gendarmes were hacked to death and two seriously injured early yesterday morning when men armed with hatchets and guns attacked the gendarmerie headquarters at Fayoue on Ouvéa Island.

Two police wives with their children witnessed the violence, thought to have been carried out by Kanak extremists seeking independence, who then captured the remaining 27 members of the squadron and took them off into the dense surrounding bush belonging to indigenous Melanesian tribes.

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Violence between the indigenous Kanaks and pro-French Caldoches was at its worst during 1984 and 1985 when the Socialists were in power. A Socialist plan to give the indigenous Melanesians (43 per cent of the population) a greater say in local government led to a beginning of dialogue between moderates of both sides.

Since then, the referendum and the drawing-up of new regional divisions have re-established the status quo in favour of the pro-French majority. Following the referendum, one of the FLNKS leaders, Mr Yvonne Yiweneau, was temporarily imprisoned, charged with inciting violence.

In February, a similar attack against a gendarmerie post in the territory resulted in 20 people being injured and nine gendarmes being held hostage for 14 hours.

In Sydney, Mr Jacques Boenighe of the Kanak Association for Economic and Cultural Development, claimed that the recent deaths of young Kanaks at the hands of the French forces had led to the raid. "The Kanaks have had enough," he said. "Their only solution is to fight back. The Kanaks are not destabilizing New Caledonia and the Pacific. It is the French who are to blame. We warned there would be violence, but we don't want to see any more killings."

M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the extreme right-wing National Front and its candidate in the presidential election, declared that he was scandalized by the Government's "kid-glove" approach in New Caledonia. He declared: "If I am elected president, French New Caledonia will be defended as it ought to be."

M Pons said the attack was

the work of an uncontrolled extremist element, at whose head was a person who had been trained in Libya.

M Lionel Jospin, the Secretary General of the Socialist Party, announced that his organization deplored all acts of violence but that this latest outbreak showed once again the gravity of a crisis that M Chirac's policies had aggravated by allowing the continuing domination by one ethnic group over another.

M Chirac responded by accusing the Socialists of always supporting the pro-independence Kanaks.

A recent referendum in New Caledonia, boycotted by the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) independence movement, resulted in a majority vote for the territory remaining French. At the time, M Mitterrand warned against a situation where the opinions of a minority were smothered.

The Treasury and Civil Service committee is expected to say that the Bank of England, in adding \$20 billion (£10.5 billion) to the official reserves last year in an effort to hold down the pound, recorded a book loss of £1.3 billion.

Pressure fades... 25 Stock market... 26

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In this the committee will be clearly aligning itself behind Mrs Thatcher's contention in the Commons shortly before last month's Budget that "you can't buck the market".

The Chancellor, in evidence to the committee last month,



An injured Kanak being lifted from a plane yesterday after clashes between French gendarmes and Kanak separatists.

MPs to back Thatcher in dispute on sterling

By Martin Fletcher and David Smith

An influential all-party committee of MPs is to produce a report on Monday which supports the Prime Minister in her dispute with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, over exchange rate policy.

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The Chancellor, in evidence to the committee last month,

defended the policy of attempting to hold sterling stable, saying that it was perfectly compatible with an overall anti-inflationary stance.

Pressed by the committee for details of the Bank of England's possible losses on intervention, the Chancellor and his Treasury officials said that such information would be used by the financial markets to second-guess the actions of the authorities.

Unlike in Germany, where the Bundesbank has to declare profits and losses on its currency intervention operations, the Bank of England is under no such obligation.

Bank and Treasury officials argue that it is meaningless to talk of profits or losses on foreign currency intervention until such time as any reserves taken on to hold down sterling are spent in supporting it. Thus, it is possible that the present book losses on last year's intervention could turn to profits if the pound weakens significantly and the Bank is forced to support it.

Even so, there are indications that the Treasury, aware of the effect of the dollar's decline on the value of the reserves, is keen to switch an

increasing proportion of the reserves into other currencies. Some of this switching may already have occurred.

The report is based on three sessions just before Easter when the committee questioned Mr Lawson and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, as well as Treasury officials.

It is to be published on Monday on the eve of the second reading in the Commons of the post-budget Finance Bill and seems certain to re-open the controversy over exchange rates policy.

The Treasury and Civil Service Committee, one of the leading Commons select committees, is chaired by Mr Terence Higgins, a Conservative MP, and has six Conservatives to four Labour and one Social and Liberal Democrat MP.

In February this year it fuelled the National Health Service debate with another of its traditional annual reports, this time on the public spending White Paper, in which it called for higher spending on the NHS and for the Government to fully fund the agreed nurses pay awards. However, the press conference to launch that "unanimous" report was marred by political sniping between Tory and Labour members of the committee.

Search for pen behind the masque

By Alan Hamilton

No one was more surprised yesterday by the claims that a new Shakespeare manuscript had been discovered than the staff of the Californian library which owns it, except possibly the present Earl of Derby.

Ms Sue Hodson, associate curator of manuscripts at the Huntington Library in San Marino which has had the document in its archives since 1917, disclosed that it had been pored over endlessly by scholars in the past 51 years, and was so well known that library regularly sold photocopies of it at the equivalent of 15 pence each. No one had ever suggested that it was the work of Shakespeare, she said.

"It has been studied by generations of scholars, none of whom chose to have it published. The library had no idea that Professor Levi was going to publish it; he didn't tell us," Ms Hodson said.

Professor Peter Levi, incumbent of the chair of poetry at Oxford University, plans to give a full public justification for his alleged discovery at a press conference on Monday.

In spite of a tidal wave of academic opinion which discounts authorship by the Bard, Professor Levi declined to comment yesterday. He will claim that the verses in the disputed manuscript were written for the engagement of

Hope of arms treaty stalled

From Our Correspondent Moscow

The chances of a strategic arms treaty being signed at the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit evaporated yesterday after Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said that outstanding problems still remained.

But Mr Shevardnadze said a document could be signed by President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev at next month's Moscow summit if both sides fail to conclude a strategic arms treaty in time.

At a news conference after holding two days of talks with Mr Shultz aimed at preparing for the summit, Mr Shevardnadze made it clear that he did not expect the treaty to be ready in time because of the difficult and complicated work involved.

"If it's not ready, some kind of document could be drafted where we could formalize the progress made," Mr Shevardnadze said. "Sooner or later, I am sure we will be able to complete this accord, and we will have another history-making achievement."

Mr Shultz said that both sides had not yet given up trying to conclude a treaty in time for a summit. He said he

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Kremlin number two, smiled and chatted during a rally in Moscow yesterday in a display of unity that seemed to quash rumours of a big split in the Soviet leadership. Page 7

and Mr Shevardnadze would make new efforts to reach agreement at a meeting next month.

As to whether the ministers had decided that completing a treaty was impossible by the end of next month, Mr Shultz said: "We haven't said that to each other." But, he added: "It gets more difficult as time goes on. We remain determined to keep at it... so that the summit will have a solid substantive component to it."

Mr Shultz's statement concerning lack of progress on the strategic arms treaty providing for 50 per cent cuts in US and Soviet long-range missiles, was not unexpected. Mr Reagan said on Thursday that he doubted if an agreement could be reached in time.

Mr Gorbachev also indicated before opening three hours of talks with Mr Shultz yesterday that in his view the negotiations were "marking time".

In response to a question about Mr Gorbachev's comment and Soviet criticism of the US approach, Mr Shultz said: "From our standpoint

Continued on page 24, col 8

WIN £42,000 Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator. The Portfolio Accumulator fund stands today at £42,000. Portfolio offers two chances: the £3,000 weekly prize or, if your number is higher, the Accumulator fund. Portfolio list, page 29. THE TIMES STOCK WATCH. This week The Times introduces STOCKWATCH, the most comprehensive financial information phone-line service in Britain - free to Times readers. And in the Stockwatcher competition there are unit trusts worth £50,000 to be won: details, page 31.

Labour tackles cash crisis

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A radical four-year plan designed to tackle the Labour Party's financial crisis and double its membership is to be put to party leaders on Monday.

The party, facing a deficit of more than £2 million by the end of the year, aims to raise £6 million from trade unions to fight the next general election campaign.

The rescue plan has been drawn up by Mr Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, after discussions with Mr Neil Kinnock and the general secretaries of all the main trade unions.

They plan includes a national Labour Party membership list, cut-rate membership fees for trade unionists, rises in affiliation fees and a big direct mail fund-raising drive.

Mr Whitty's plan will be put to a meeting of the finance and general purposes committee which on Monday will also receive a report from independent auditors underlining the grave state of the party's finances.

Peat, Marwick McLintock, appointed to investigate the finances at the insistence of the party's bankers, say that the party faces a deficit of more than £2 million by the end of the year.

Mr Whitty's proposals, which have general backing from union leaders and the party leadership, will go before the ruling national executive committee for approval in principle next Wednesday.

At his heart is the plan to turn Labour into a mass party with a larger membership more representative of the public.

Mr Whitty is to recommend a phased increase in trade union affiliation fees, the sum paid to the party by unions for each of their levy-paying members, from 75p to 90p per member in 1991.

In a far-reaching move designed to build up funds for the general election to £6 million, he is proposing a

special additional payment of 20p per head this year, rising to 55p in 1991.

This is aimed at avoiding the last-minute scramble for funds which Labour usually faces before an election. Often the burden is felt to fall unfairly on the shoulders of the main unions.

Mr Whitty also proposes that there should be a mandatory quarterly payment of affiliation fees to improve the party's cash flow.

The big unions have agreed to underwrite a £300,000 loan from the Unity Trust Bank for membership drive. A huge direct mail operation is aimed at bringing in £800,000 to £1 million by 1991.

A national computerized membership list is planned.

Mr Whitty suggests that trade unionists who pay the political levy to the party should be able to join the party for £5 instead of the £10.60 the present 300,000 members pay.

No-strike pledge led to nurses' rise

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The nursing profession earned its big pay increase because of the pledge taken by most nurses not to strike, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher, speaking after visiting a Nottingham factory, denied that the Government had been pressurized by industrial action by some

Sister smiling... 2

nurses in February into making the average 15.3 per cent award.

She said: "I want to make it absolutely clear the reason we gave the nurses a pay review body was because the Royal College of Nursing had never gone on strike."

"There never would have been a pay review body at all but for the high standards maintained by the RCN, who we feel, we will never take it out on the patients."

The college reaffirmed its support for a no-strike policy by an overwhelming majority in a ballot of its 260,000 members last month. "Those nurses would never have got this award but for the no-strike policy reaffirmed by the RCN", Mrs Thatcher said.

She made clear she was drawing a distinction between the RCN and other health service unions. The Government and the RCN alone had drawn up a new clinical grading structure which was referred to the pay review body, without mentioning the involvement of the rest of the staff side representatives.

"We have always felt that people in that position should never suffer because they cannot use the strike weapon or they are too conscientious to use it. I hope it gives them the feeling it is not only government but everyone who has

Continued on page 24, col 7

Minister's silent slip falls betwixt cup and lip

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Sunday lunchtime drinkers look set to gain an extra hour's opening time because of a minister's slip.

Lord Ferrers, who recently returned to the front bench in the Upper Chamber, tried to force a vote on an amendment in the Licensing Bill allowing public houses to close at 3pm instead of 2pm.

He duly shouted "not content" when the question was put. But his was the only voice against it - which led to the question being put again. On the second call Lord Ferrers thought his Whips would speak up and so sat silent. The result was approval for the amendment without a vote.

The Licensing Bill is back in the Commons where MPs will soon decide

the issue. But yesterday Westminster sources made clear that the Government is willing to live with the change and Conservative MPs will not be "whipped in" to throw out the Lords' amendment.

The Home Office has been holding consultations with the "Sunday" lobby and believes the change in the hours will not cause too much fuss.

The Government has no strong objection to the extra hour, although it had deliberately shied away from changing the Sunday session for fear of stirring up the Keep Sunday Special lobby.

The thirteenth Earl was asked to return as deputy leader of the Lords, and 'become a Home Office Minister, to boost the front bench on the retirement of Lord Whitelaw. Lord Ferrers, who is popular and imposing and enjoys a penchant for practical jokes, has openly

admitted he had meant to oppose the amendment and slipped up.

The change in the Sunday public house opening hours also creates anomalies. For instance members of clubs immediately pounced on the Home Office demanding an extension so that they too can open for six and a half hours on the Sabbath, instead of five and a half hours.

Lord Ferrers acted more quickly with an amendment on extending the clubs' opening hours. He forced the issue to a division - and won.

However, in so doing, he managed to antagonize members of Britain's 1,400 Conservative clubs as well as those in golf, working men's and other sorts of clubs.

Public houses in Scotland will not come under the Licensing Bill.



Lord Ferrers: Prepared to accept his mistake.

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INSIDE Poll tax 'is sole gift of Commons'. Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor, refutes in a letter to The Times today widely-circulated suggestions that amendments to the community charge can be made in the House of Lords. He says such suggestions are contrary to his understanding of the constitution. The community charge is the "sole gift of the Commons" under the constitution as it now exists, he says. Letters, page 11. INDEX: Home News 2-5, Overseas 7-9, Business 25-29, Sport 38-42, Arts 20-21, Births, marriages, deaths 25, Bridge 31, Chess 21, Court 12, Crosswords 21-24, Diary 10, Entertainment 35-36, Family Money 30-34, Features 10, 13-19, Information 22, Law Report 37, Legal & Financial 57, Letters 11, Obituary 12, Parliament 5, Religion 12, Satelroom 10, Service Report 35, TV & Radio 23, Travel 14, 15, Universities 35, Weather 24.

Sticking the boot in where it hurts. By David Miller. As a prayer of thanksgiving for the past year, the Football League management committee has come to its senses. The remarkable when you consider its gross mismanagement of its own contemporary relations around Robert Maxwell's ship. The destruction of the ship for repeated foul play has been recommended. Some have turned sour in the past. In the years since, he has become increasingly adept at manipulating the practice of professional sportsmanship, and the simultaneous corruption of the mind of children and spectators. The only way to keep professional cheats in line is to even in team sports the suspension of individual players, as in tennis, is to regret that the Football League's decision is that the governing body, the Football Association. There must be reasonable doubt whether the League have the moral courage to enforce its rules and whether the rules already under severe pressure and often undermined by lack of understanding of the game, will have the confidence to withstand a more heated accession of pressure. Hacking way to victory. Through welcoming a... M S.

Ridley orders experienced team into action in Lords

By Sheila Gamm, Political Staff

A team of experienced government peers is to be drafted in to help to smooth the passage of the poll tax legislation through the House of Lords at the insistence of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Lord Calthness, Minister of State for the Environment, with responsibility for heritage issues, will be in charge of the Local Government Finance Bill which goes to the upper House next week. Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, has also been assigned to deal with parts of the Bill.

The help of Lord Mackay of Cassifier, who has quickly adapted to his role as Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords, may also be called on depending on his other commitments. He has been put in charge of contentious clauses affecting universities in the Education Reform Bill.

In addition, several senior backbenchers are likely to be briefed to fight off any attempt to emasculate Mr Ridley's proposals for a flat-rate community charge.

Relatives may try to halt axe death inquest

A High Court attempt may be made on Monday to halt the inquest into the killing of Daniel Morgan, the private detective found with an axe through his head.

Relatives of Mr Morgan, aged 37, do not want the inquest to end without the evidence of Mrs Sharon Rees, aged 31, the wife of Mr John Rees, Mr Morgan's partner at a detective agency. He was arrested and released by murder squad detectives.

Mrs Rees is said to be one of only two people told about an alleged plot to kill Mr Morgan. She vanished from her home in Thornton Heath, south London, after being told her evidence was required.

Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, may rule that she would be too ill to give evidence even if traced.

managers are giving priority to the poll tax proposals in its legislative timetable in the hope of pushing them through the House of Lords as early as possible. They are optimistic that the "instincts" and conventions in the upper House will deter any Conservative peers who are unhappy with the flat-rate community charge from clashing openly with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

That is in spite of technical advice from the Lords' authorities that there is no bar to them passing an amendment similar to that proposed



Lord Calthness, in charge of smoothing Bill's passage.

by Mr Michael Mates, MP for Hampshire East.

Government whips insist that the Conservative Party does not have an overall majority in the upper House. However, so far in this session it has been polling higher figures than in recent years and has not suffered any important defeats.

The first formal reading of the Local Government Finance Bill will be given next week. The detailed committee stage will start at the end of next month before peers rise for the Whitsun recess. That means that by early June the upper House will be in the middle of both the education and poll tax measures.

However, the main concern of the Government's business managers will be to get through the tricky passages of the Local Government Finance Bill before Conservative peers are tempted away from their division lobbies by the diversions of Royal Ascot, Henley and Wimbledon.

By convention, peers do not vote on a government Bill at second reading but save their fire for the detailed examina-

tion stages. During the revising process, they are not under the same limitations on time and amendments as MPs.

Lord Cledwyn, leader of the Labour peers, said yesterday: "We do not vote against a government Bill at second reading on the basis of the doctrine of the mandate. That is the convention we observe, as we did on the Education Reform Bill."

"But we are perfectly entitled to process this (Local Government Finance) Bill in the normal way, tabling amendments and, if necessary, voting against the Government."

He recognized that peers might be treading on difficult constitutional ground if they passed a "Mates" amendment but he believed they would be within their rights to approve such a change under their powers in the Parliament Act 1911.

Opposition peers are worried that Tory backbenchers might be "bullied" by Government whips into not tabling radical amendments by claiming that they were acting unconstitutionally.

Second sale of Italian paintings

More from a hidden hoard

Christie's is to sell a second group of nineteenth century Italian paintings from a huge hoard, hidden from the moment they were painted until last year. The collection, to be sold next Friday, can be compared to the Nanking Cargo of china, and is an important discovery for art historians.

The hoarders were two South American-born brothers, Juan and Felix Bernasconi who, during the late nineteenth century bought the paintings from the artists, and stacked them unframed at their home, the Villa Argentina outside Lugano. Invited by a descendant to value the collection last year, Christie's discovered the paintings in the attic and stacked away in drawers.

The auction house sold 2,500 of them and was amazed

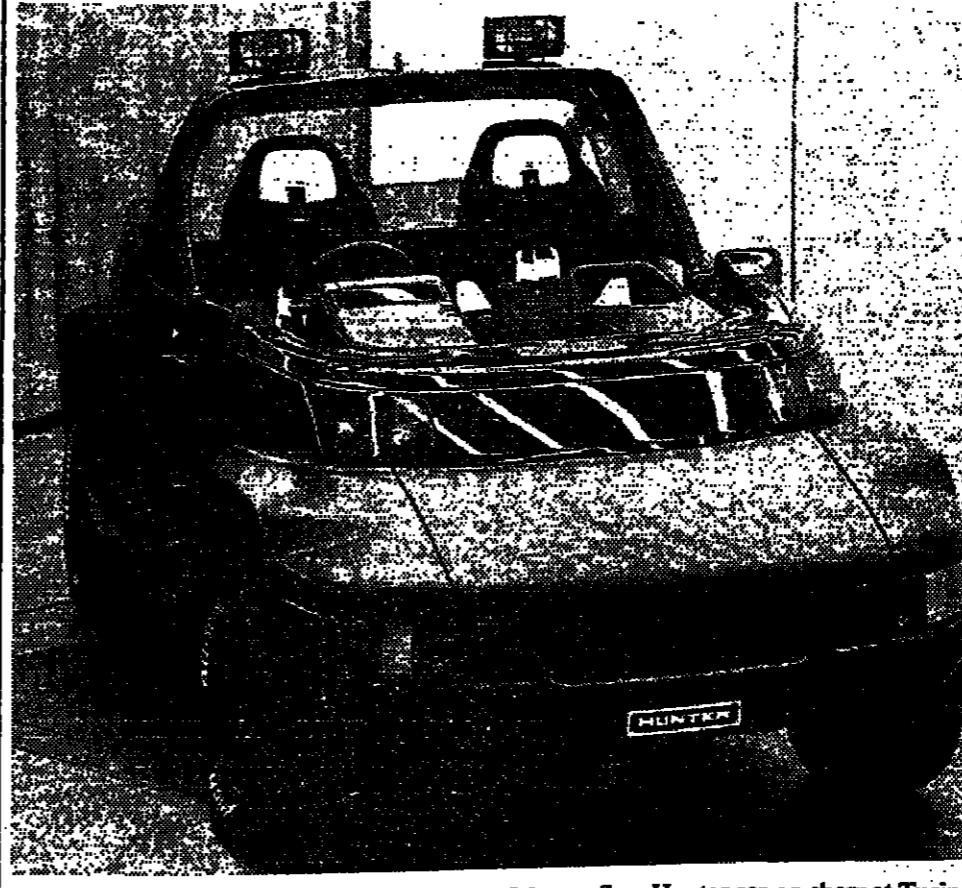
bought two high priced works: a still life of flowers, its leaves enhanced with drips of water and a caterpillar, by Balthus van der Ast at £242,000 (estimate £150,000 to £200,000) and a pair of tiny seascapes by Salomon van Ruysdael for which he paid £110,000 (estimate £30,000 to £40,000).

Two pictures described by Christie's expert, Gregory Martin, as "grizzly", fetched £70,000 over their estimate to an anonymous buyer. A Venetian painting of the Adoration of the Shepherds, presented to St Mary's Church, Elham, in memory of Charles Lindsay Murray Scott (killed in the First World War) raised £12,100, within estimate.

The sale totalled £2.6 million, with 78 per cent sold.

The dealer, Thomas Brod.

In search of the future



Fresh air and futuristic concepts in the shape of the roofless Hunter car on show at Turin.

Like George Melly's suits, the Hunter concept car was designed to attract attention (Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent, writes). The black, futuristic buggy with seats in wetsuit yellow fulfilled its designer's ambition at the Turin motor show this week alongside the work of Gagliardi, Pininfarina and Bertone, the haute couture of automotive design.

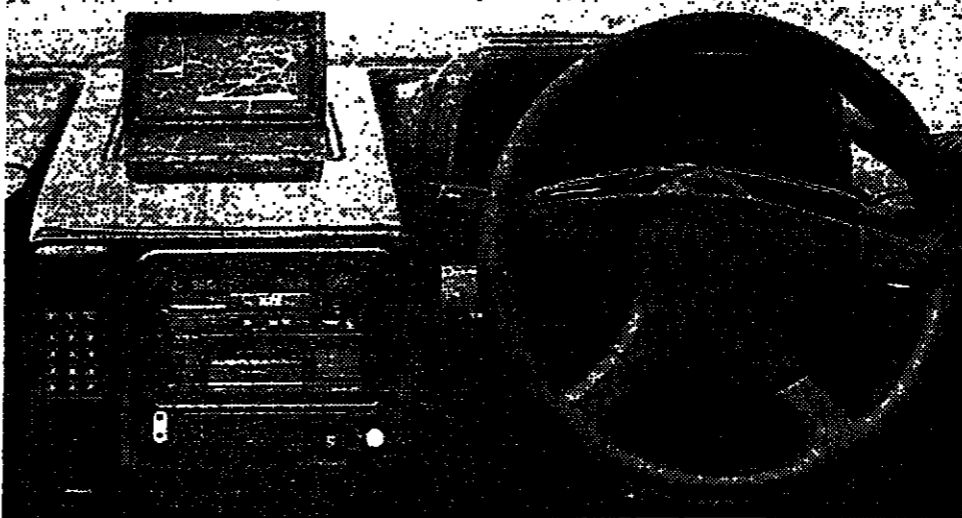
Mr Martin Longmore, the Hunter's creator, works for International Automotive Design of Worthing, West Sussex. He said: "Cars are looking so alike these days that it is very important to push design ahead."

There is no roof. Miss Cindy Charwick, the interior designer, said: "You have to dress for the weather". She included a satellite navigation system so drivers leaving metalled roads will know what the terrain is like ahead.

The Hunter and the company's luxury

Royale saloon, also making its debut at Turin, each took a team of 15 designers and engineers six months to create at a combined cost of £500,000. They are not for sale. The Royale was designed by Señor Jesse Luis Diaz de la Vega, the Mexican stylist, as "an exciting luxury saloon that can be used as an office".

Mr Bill Barranco, Royale's interior designer, dismisses a tape cassette player as antique. The rear seat passengers have a facsimile machine, lap-top computer and individual television screens. The Royale boasts 13 speakers for the sophisticated sound system. "The thirteenth is an activator which transforms one of the structural parts of the car into a base speaker. It should sound like a concert hall inside the car", Mr Barranco says, with the air of someone who takes the future very seriously indeed.



The dashboard, showing the off-road navigational system to the left of the steering wheel.

Tube costs and safety 'outside inquiry'

By Tony Dawe

The contentious issue of whether safety has been sacrificed to cost-cutting on the London Underground was ruled out on the fifty-first day of the public inquiry into the King's Cross disaster.

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, the chairman of the inquiry, said that the issue, which has been raised repeatedly since last November's fire which killed 31 people, was beyond his terms of reference.

He said the inquiry should explore London Underground's attitude and its reasons for taking decisions on safety measures affecting the fire.

Lawyers thought it reasonable for the inquiry to consider whether the tight financial regime imposed on London Underground by the Government had led to cuts in safety protection. But counsel for the company had opposed the claim.

In his judgement, Mr Fennell said that the terms of reference of the inquiry, set up by the Secretary of State for Transport, had invited him to look into the circumstances of the fire and not "to conduct a general inquiry into the running of the London Underground".

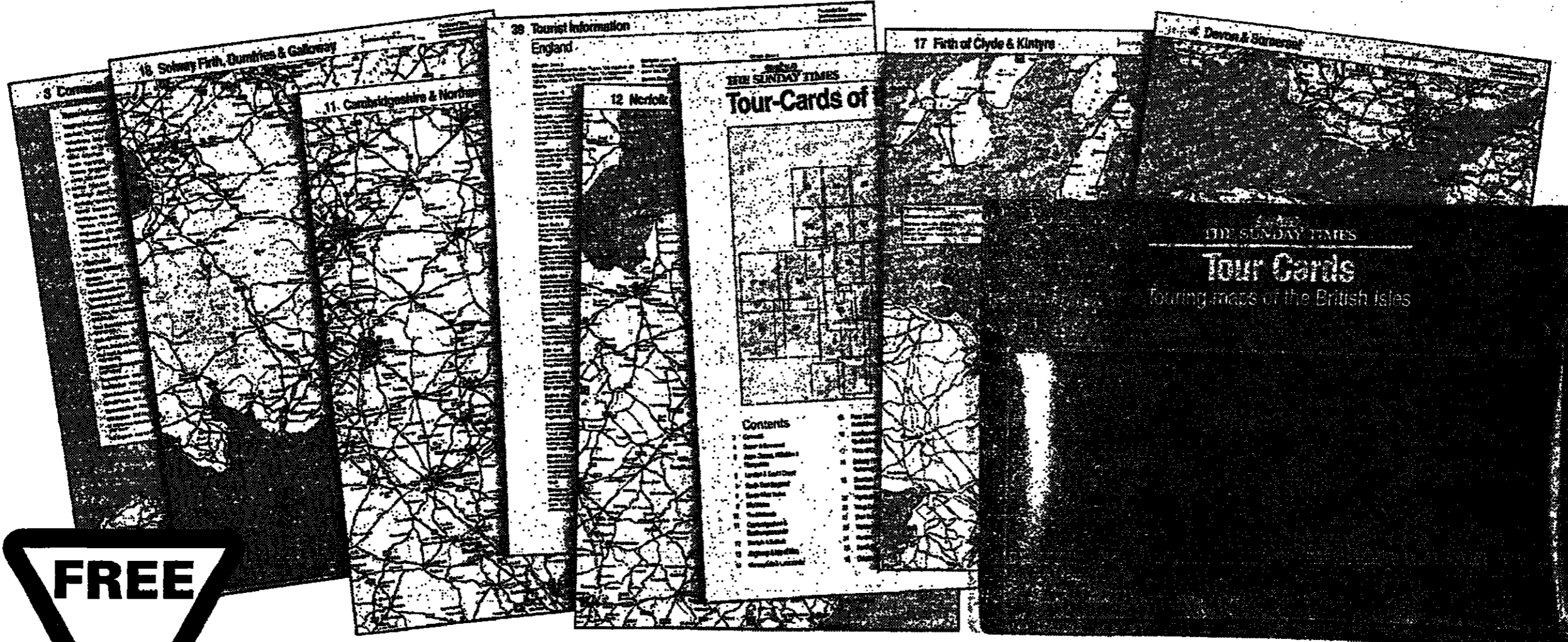
"That would be a wholly different proposition. In my judgement the funding of the Underground is *ultra vires* this investigation, which is concerned with what happened on the night of November 18 and why. Accordingly I do not propose to consider the point or to allow evidence upon it."

Mr Fennell said the inquiry should consider the company's decisions on the water fog equipment, smoke detectors, and the use of wooden components on the escalator. Matters of passenger evacuation, training, staffing, passenger and station control were also relevant to the inquiry.

He also ruled that evidence about other fires on the Underground could be allowed when there were common factors.

But he would not consider the question of creating a new external agency to oversee the running of the Underground. "An enforcing agency is already in existence", he said, referring to the roles of the Railway Inspectorate and the fire brigade.

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Bill v again
A private Member
of the House of
Commons has
moved for a
motion to be
debated on the
subject of
animal rights.
The motion is
that the
Government
should
take steps to
prevent the
export of
animals to
countries where
they are
used for
human
consumption.
The motion
was moved
by Mr
Graham
Pugh, a
Member of
the House of
Commons.
The motion
was supported
by a number
of other
Members.
The motion
was debated
for two
hours.
The motion
was carried
by a majority
of 10 votes.
The motion
will be
debated
again in
the House of
Commons
on 12th
November.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Reagan in talks on Meese row

Washington - President Reagan summoned two top Justice Department officials to the White House this week to ask for a detailed explanation of their complaints against Mr Edwin Meese, the beleaguered Attorney-General (Christopher Thomas writes).

Botha under attack

Dr Andries Treurnicht, the leader of South Africa's far-right Conservative Party and the Opposition in the white House of Assembly, yesterday likened President Botha to a buck walking along a river bank unaware that the crocodile of "black power" was about to gobble him up (Our Foreign Staff writes). He said: "You are walking straight towards (Chief Mangosuthu) Buthelezi," referring to the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, often portrayed as the black leader with whom Pretoria might deal.

'Punish Algeria' call

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, yesterday came out in favour of imposing diplomatic penalties against Algeria if the suspicion that the Kuwait Airways hijackers have escaped prosecution is confirmed (Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

British link broken

Harare - The City Council of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, has voted to remove the city's last remaining memorial to the family name of the Marquess of Salisbury, by renaming the central Cecil Square African Unity Square (Michael Hartnack writes).

Rebel feud theory

Lisbon - Portuguese authorities are working on the assumption that the kidnapping and murder this week of Evo Fernandes, the former secretary-general of the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), was a "settling of scores" among dissenting factions (Martha de la Cal writes). Rebel representatives, however, are blaming the Mozambique secret service for the killing. The movement's leadership, facing international criticism, the new US and British policy to support Maputo and an effort by South Africa to distance itself from MNR atrocities, has sought talks with the Government of President Chissano. But rebel factions in the United States and Malawi are known not to agree to negotiations with Maputo.

Stalin daughter's plea

Moscow (Reuter) - Stalin's daughter Svetlana Alliluyeva, right, has lost her Soviet citizenship for the second time, according to a decree published yesterday. The decree, signed by President Andrei Gromyko, said the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet had agreed to allow Svetlana, aged 61, who now lives mainly in the US after living in the Soviet Union from 1984-6, and her teenage daughter Olga to relinquish their citizenship.



Hunting for clues to the next US Cabinet

A bizarre feature of American democracy is that voters have no idea what kind of government they will bring to power when they enter the polling booths. They vote for only two men: the President and his running mate. History has shown that in normal circumstances the second choice is almost irrelevant: vice-presidents neither shape policy nor wield real responsibility. Unlike parliamentary democracies, the electorate has no chance to inspect the Cabinet team the President will bring with him. There is no discussion of the men and women to whom vital decisions on defence and foreign policy will be delegated. Indeed, candidates - who suffer the smallest details of their family finances, character and background to be probed and analysed - testily dismiss questions about Cabinet posts as though the inquiry itself were some sort of impertinence.

Washington View

By Michael Binyon also find a place in a Bush Cabinet - with perhaps new and added responsibility. On defence, Mr Bush has consulted Mr John Lehman, the former Navy Secretary; on national security issues he has drawn on General Brent Scowcroft, President Ford's National Security Adviser, as well as the ubiquitous Dr Brzezinski. Key political supporters would probably also be rewarded: Governor John Sununu of New Hampshire, whose vital intervention rallied the Bush campaign there and

assembled a team that demonstrates both continuity with the Reagan legacy but also innovation. Some close allies now in power will probably also hold jobs in a Bush Administration: Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, who is a likely Secretary of State; Mr William Bennett, the forceful Education Secretary who has advised Mr Bush and helped bolster his claim to be the future "education President"; may

Queen follows gold trail Down Under

The Queen greeting a baby during an informal walk through the Civic Centre of Geraldton, Western Australia, after proclaiming a city. Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, she yesterday headed for the Golden Mile, one of the richest gold seams in the world (Christopher Morris writes from Kalgoorlie). They travelled over 1,000 miles deep into the outback of Western Australia, retracing the route of the old prospectors to Kalgoorlie, the gold rush town. The journey by jet and a Rolls-Royce ended up in Hannan Street, the so-called "Street of Gold" that bears the name of the Irishman, Paddy Hannan, who discovered

a Cabinet based on competence and proven ability rather than rewarding supporters. He will also draw on a much narrower field than Mr Bush - Boston academics, those who have worked in the Massachusetts Governor's office, and fellow Democratic governors he has come to know in the Governors' Association. Cabinet Mr Dukakis would have also to balance the needs of the party: to entice Senator Sam Nunn on to his ticket, he is being urged to offer him the job of National Security Adviser as well as Vice-President. Mr Dukakis will almost certainly also strike a deal with the Rev Jesse Jackson, guaranteeing generous Cabinet representation for blacks and other minorities. This would lead to the likely appointment of such respected black politicians as Congressman William Gray of Pennsylvania as Treasury Secretary.

So far, most of this speculation is based on among Washington insiders, political analysts and anxious embassy officials under instructions to prepare their governments for the likely shape of the Administration next January. The American people and media have not focused on that.

Palestinians in clashes on 'day of rage'

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

A "day of rage" called by the secret leadership of the unrest in the occupied territories ended violently in the Gaza Strip yesterday, with one Palestinian shot dead at Khan Younis and 10 others, including a boy aged nine, wounded at Jabalyah camp. One of the wounded was said to be in a serious condition.

Jabalyah camp was where the four-month-old uprising began and it still continues to be one of the places where violence flares most easily, despite a death toll of more than 30 in the past four months and weeks of intermittent curfews. Yesterday's incident occurred when residents defied the curfew to attend Friday prayers.

The day of protest was called to start what is supposed to be a week of escalating violence over the killing last week of Khalil al-Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, a leading figure in the PLO. The largest demonstration took place outside the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem after the Friday prayers, when police and Palestinians clashed for more than an hour.

Throughout the occupied territories curfews and military sieges remain widely in force to keep the Palestinians at home and so prevent demonstrations. They are not always successful. At Kalkiya, a total clamp-down on movement in and out of the town continued for a fifth day, with not even food allowed in. Even so, Palestinian flags have been flying throughout the town and masked Arab youths attacked a settlers' bus near the police station, smashing its windows. Shots were fired to break up a demonstration at a mosque after prayers.

Gorbachov in show of Kremlin unity

Moscow (Reuter) - Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader and Mr Yegor Ligachov, his number two, smiled and chatted throughout a Moscow rally yesterday in a display of unity that appeared to quash rumours of a big Kremlin split.

The two stood side by side, applauding loudly, after a speech by a senior Communist Party official, Mr Gyorgy Razuromovsky, who delivered a resounding reaffirmation of Mr Gorbachov's proclaimed democratization campaign. In what analysts said could have been a reference to a top-level debate on the extent of the Gorbachov programme of perestroika (reconstruction), Mr Razuromovsky said "discussion of different views" could only strengthen Soviet society.

In the past two weeks, there have been strong rumours in Moscow that Mr Ligachov, aged 67, who has expressed hardline views on cultural and press freedom, had clashed with Mr Gorbachov and other reformers. Rumours apparently emanating from Soviet sources in the past few days, and fuelled by Mr Ligachov's absence

Iraqi stealth 'key to Fao recapture'

From Paul Vallety, Baghdad

A complex and lengthy deception was practised on Iran in the weeks leading up to the offensive in which Iraqi troops recaptured the Fao peninsula in their most significant victory for five years, informed Western sources revealed here yesterday. The success of the 34-hour offensive to liberate the area, which had been under Iranian occupation for the past two years, was in large measure due to the fact that Tehran had been led to believe that the Iraqi Army was about to launch a counter-offensive in the north of the country.

"Iraq had tried for two months to retake Fao soon after it fell in 1986 but their heavy armour got bogged down in the marshy terrain during the wet season. The standard military logic was that armour and artillery would not get the Iraqis out. It would take infantry and the losses to Iraq would have been severe," said one Western observer with access to military intelligence. Instead, the Iraqis opted to use stealth to launch an

armoured attack over the mud flats of Fao during the dry season. "They attacked in Ramadan when things tend to go quiet normally because Muslim soldiers must fast for the entire month, and they quite cleverly deceived Iran into thinking their attention was elsewhere." In recent months the Iraqi High Command had built up considerable numbers of troops along the southern front, of which Fao is the southernmost tip. But Iraq conveyed the impression that these were deployed to counter an Iranian offensive against the region to the east of Basra which had seemed likely after Tehran appealed last October for volunteers for a "final offensive" against Iraq, and began to post these recruits along the border not far from Basra.

But Ayatollah Khomeini's campaign did not attract the number of volunteers needed. There were signs that the fanaticism of the early years was never before attacked until it has massed equal numbers of troops. When this parity was not achieved, the likelihood of a new push diminished. But Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, cleverly continued to speak apprehensively of this threat in the United Nations and to visiting journalists, thus justifying the Army's continuing heavy presence.

"Then just before the attack Iraq sent its Defence Minister and the Army's Chief of Staff and their deputies to the northern front. The Iraqis were deceived by the ploy." Independent military observers here believe that Iraq was thus robbing the chance to reinforce the peninsula, which it had connected to the Iranian mainland with three pontoon bridges across the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

"Supplying the peninsula was logistically difficult for the Iraqis. Even the drinking water had to be brought across the bridges. The temptation for the Iraqis must have been to reduce their numbers and hence reduce their supply problems, and hope that the Iraqis wouldn't realize it," one Western observer said. Iraq has officially denied that its offensive was based on intelligence reports from US satellite pictures. Military observers believe this could be the case. "Simply from over-flying the area the Iraqis must have had a fairly strewed idea what was going on," said one. Military attachés from foreign embassies in Baghdad, who were given a guided tour of the battleground, now estimate that the strength of the Iranian force was far lower than had originally been believed.

One diplomat who saw Iranian prisoners of war said: "They were not an impressive bunch. Many were boys who looked between 14 and 16. Others were quite elderly men." The Iraqi Army had found its offensive went more smoothly than might have been expected, observers said. Iran has claimed that Iraq used chemical weapons to secure the victory, a claim which has been denied in Baghdad. But independent

military sources do not discount the notion. "It is a distinct possibility. Normally in Baghdad there are pictures on show on television within hours. The television is fond of showing film of enemy corpses in gory detail. But this time there were few pictures. It was two days before the press were allowed to go down to Fao. Chemical weapons could well be the explanation," one said. Military attachés consider that the victory in Fao could turn the tide of the land war in Iraq's favour. "This will now free a large number of troops and equipment, which were tied up there, for use on other parts of the front," one Westerner said.

The diplomatic implications are less clear-cut. Neighbouring Arab states have been sending congratulations to President Saddam Hussein on the victory. But the ousting of the Iraqis from an area within missile range of Kuwait also removes one of the imperatives promoting closer relations between that country and Iraq.

US tobacco giants 'plotted to mislead smokers'

From Charles Bremner, New York

In one of the most potentially damaging rulings to confront America's giant tobacco industry, a New Jersey judge has found that three companies engaged in a devious and reckless conspiracy to mislead smokers about the dangers to their health. Mr Lee Sarokin, a federal judge, issued his harshly worded ruling as a response to a request by the Liggett Group, Philip Morris and Lorillard to dismiss a highly publicized suit brought by the family of a woman who died of lung cancer. The fortunes of the industry are riding on the outcome of the case of Mrs Rose Cipollone of Newark. Until now the tobacco companies have won or neutralized more than 100 suits that sought to make them liable for illness and death alleged to have been caused by smoking. The cigarette makers argue that the link to lung cancer is still not conclusive.

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Overwhelming evidence had been presented to the court, Judge Sarokin said, to prove that smoking caused lung cancer and he said: "It is difficult to envision a more compelling case for an award of punitive damages." Lawyers for the industry hit back with a statement accusing the non-smoking judge of making an emotional finding. If the jury agrees with the judge when it gives its verdict some time next month, the tobacco industry could face a deluge of lawsuits.

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Danes condemn US and Britain over cancelled Navy visit

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Britain and the United States have been accused of meddling in Danish affairs in the run-up to a snap general election called for May 10.

The accusation follows a British decision yesterday to cancel scheduled visits to four Danish ports by six warships, some of which have just completed Nato minesweeping manoeuvres in the North Sea. It is the latest move in a Nato crisis sparked by the decision of Denmark's Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schluter, to call a snap election over his country's nuclear policy.

As an unusually bitter election campaign got under way, with the country's membership of the Nato alliance the main theme, Mr Svend Auken, the Opposition Social Democratic leader, said Britain and the United States were meddling in Danish domestic affairs. "The British and American Governments are Conservative Governments and I guess it is only human that they support the Conservative-led Government in Denmark," Mr Auken said.

"I do not want a confrontation with people with whom I will have to work after the election - we expect to win in this poll. In the eyes of many Danes it is certainly interference," he said. The cancella-

tion of the British naval visits follows Nato's decision earlier in the week to move a meeting of defence ministers in the Nuclear Planning Group, scheduled for April 27 and 28, from Kolding, Jutland, in West Denmark, to Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Lord Carrington, the outgoing Nato Secretary-General, who was to have chaired the Kolding meeting, has postponed a farewell visit to Copenhagen (including luncheon with Queen Margrethe), also scheduled for next week.

According to Nato diplomats, the alliance felt that opponents of Mr Poul Schluter, Denmark's Conservative Prime Minister and leader of the centre-right four-party minority Government, could have used the Kolding meeting to score political points, and therefore preferred to transfer the meeting to Brussels and await the election outcome.

The Government has taken an early lead in the first opinion poll to be published since it called the general election earlier this week. The poll, which appeared in *Borsen*, the Copenhagen financial daily, shows the ruling coalition gaining three seats to hold 73 of the 179 seats in the Folketing (parliament), with

support for the left-wing opposition unchanged. If duplicated on May 10, the result would allow the Government to continue in a slightly stronger position, but would not solve the crisis over nuclear policy.

Last week an opposition motion tabled by the Social Democrats tightened up Denmark's peacetime ban on nuclear weapons on its territory by requiring the Government to inform visiting Nato warships individually that they must not bring nuclear arms into Danish ports.

The passing of that resolution has opened the second general election in Denmark within eight months, and a serious crisis within Nato. The United States and Britain have said that they cannot accept the Danish resolution and have warned that it would seriously affect plans to send in reinforcements to Denmark in wartime.

Denmark has long been criticized for not spending enough on Nato and for its maverick defence policies of dissenting on joint Alliance decisions. The Danish coalition wants a formula similar to Norway, which has a peacetime ban on atomic weapons but merely asks warships to respect its laws.

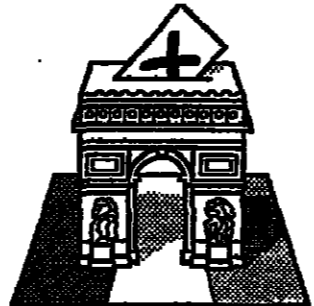
Elysée runners set for first big hurra

From Philip Jacobson Paris

At 8 am on the dot tomorrow, polling stations all over France will open for the nation's 38.3 million registered voters to begin the process of choosing a new President.

By the time the ballot boxes are collected at 6 pm (two hours later for the big cities), about four in every five French citizens will have made their choice from one of the nine candidates competing - some rather more hopefully than others - to contest the run-off exactly a fortnight later.

Only two go through in France's first-past-the-post system, and with M Francois Mitterrand already looking the safest of bets, the main interest lies in who will oppose him from the right. Unless the



ubiquitous opinion polls are badly out of line, it will be M Jacques Chirac. The same projections suggest that the present occupant of the Elysée Palace will go on to beat the present Prime Minister with something to spare.

A nation of individualists, the French are reputed to be fond of misleading pollsters and might still spring a few surprises. By tradition, they vote for their favourite candidate first time round, then against the man they least want to see installed as head of state.

That can have interesting repercussions when a particular group of electors is nursing a grudge. In 1981, the country's 1.6 million *peués noirs* - former settlers in Algeria - went heavily for M Mitterrand because they considered M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing unsympathetic to their cause.

With the final result swung by no more than 650,000 votes, some analysts concluded that the "conscious election" had helped M Mitterrand win the day (since M Jacques Chirac fought with the French Army in Algeria, he is considered the most likely beneficiary this time).

Then there are the women



Hands-on politicians (clockwise from left): M Mitterrand who looks set to win the first round of voting tomorrow in which M Barre is likely to be beaten by M Chirac for a place in the run-off, where the votes of M Le Pen could prove crucial.

another new and potentially important factor in the 1988 campaign. To the uninitiated, some appear to employ suspect methodology, the instant popularity contests taken by computer during peak-time interviews while a candidate is still talking. But although the voting public, and working journalists, may have found the endless processions increasingly irksome, French polls have an impressive enough track record when it comes to forecasting the outcome (including M Mitterrand's victory in 1981).

It was a poll in *Figaro Magazine* which concluded that almost 80 per cent of the French considered that television now exerts tremendous influence over the electorate as a whole. Hard to prove, perhaps, since M Mitterrand has been limiting his small screen appearances with no apparent damage to his popularity.

There was a noticeable absence of good fun, too, always excepting the knockabout performances of the star of the Chirac camp, the Interior Minister, M Charles Pasqua, and some of M Jean-Marie Le Pen's robust asides.

Where was the 1988 equivalent of the late Michel Colucci, alias Coluche, a music hall clown whose scathing opinions about the political process so enlivened proceedings seven years ago?

There were moments when a British observer might even have welcomed a guest performer from Screaming Lord Sutch, that veteran of many an election campaign, who happens to be topping the bill in a Parisian *boléro*.

Leading article, page 11

Shroud cut for carbon date tests

Rome - Three small fragments have been cut out of the Turin Shroud - the burial cloth that may have been wrapped around Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion - and will be subjected to carbon-dating in Britain, Switzerland and the United States, the Vatican announced yesterday (Roger Boyes writes).

The pieces, which weigh no more than 150 milligrams, have been sealed and certified under the supervision of Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, the Archbishop of Turin, and Dr Michael Tite of the British Museum.

Tornado toll

Dhaka - At least 36 people were killed and more than 300 injured when tornadoes hit three central Bangladesh districts, officials said.

Police swoop

Hong Kong (AFP) - Immigration officers said they have smashed a fake passport syndicate, believed to be the largest in the colony's history.

Plane crash

Maputo (AFP) - A relief plane crashed in the central Mozambique city of Quelimane, killing its Australian pilot and Irish co-pilot.

Film go-ahead

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese cinemas will screen the Oscar-winning film, *The Last Emperor*, despite controversy over its depiction of history, sex scenes and use of the Forbidden City for location shooting.

Gun rampage

Nairobi (AFP) - A Kenyan policeman was charged with murder for allegedly gunning down three people, including a colleague.

Air collision

East Berlin (Reuters) - An East German Air Force pilot died when his plane collided with another military aircraft on a training flight.

Coalition fails

Port Moresby (Reuters) - The effort by the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Mr Paias Wingti, to form a government of national unity with his main political rival, Mr Michael Somare, has collapsed.

Mafia arrests

Catania, Sicily (AFP) - Police arrested 10 people in a raid on a seaside villa during a "summit" of Mafia figures.

Singapore crackdown Ministry backs latest arrests

By Gavin Bell

The Government of Singapore has affirmed its resolve to punish severely critics perceived to be "subversive elements", regardless of allegations of human rights abuses.

Rejecting a chorus of protests over the re-arrest of eight young dissidents this week, it said it would not be deterred from enforcing stringent security laws whenever it deemed them necessary.

The five women and three men were arrested under the Internal Security Act which provides for detention without trial, after complaining of police brutality while in prison last year. Mr Patrick Seow, a lawyer who had acted on their behalf, was also detained "in connection with the investigations".

The political activists and church workers were first imprisoned last May and June for alleged involvement in a Marxist conspiracy, but were released after making videotaped "confessions". This week they published an open letter denying the accusations and saying they had been coerced into making statements for television which had been distorted by editing and commentaries.

"We have never propagated, in words or in action, a communist state for Singapore," the letter said. They had advocated more democracy and respect for civil rights, but had never been involved in a communist plot.

During their detention, they said they had been deprived of rest for up to 70 hours and forced to stand for more than 20 hours in freezing cold rooms. Most of them had been struck in the face and one was doused repeatedly with water.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of a ninth signatory, Miss Tang Fong Har, a lawyer who is presently in Britain. Diplomatic sources said the Singaporean authorities have not requested her extradition.

Critics of the Government note that none of the detainees is accused of violence or of planning any specific act of violence, and conclude they are being persecuted purely for "thought-crime".

The Ministry of Home Affairs said they had been re-arrested because their statement indicated they would "resume their former activities". It dismissed the

letter as an attempt to generate publicity, trigger agitation by foreign human rights groups and put pressure on the Government. "No Singapore Government can afford to be deterred from using the (Security Act) by such tactics," it said.

The Ministry concluded: "Should the public interest require the Government to detain subversive elements without trial, it will do so."

Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong, the Minister for Trade and Industry, denied that the dissidents had been mistreated but said they may have been subjected to "psychological pressure".

General Lee, the eldest son of the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, did not appear to be unduly concerned by criticism from abroad.

"Naturally we would like a good, friendly image, but what is more important to us is that we are able to deal with serious threats in our own way and according to our own standards."

The Law Society in Singapore and a group of 28 US congressmen have expressed deep concern over the latest arrests.

Mr Francis Seow, a lawyer representing two of the detainees, said he was issuing writs of habeas corpus on their behalf. Interviewed by telephone, he described the detentions as an act of monumental folly. "My feelings are of anger and disgust, mixed with bewilderment at what the Government is trying to achieve. Members of the Bar are just bloody fed up with what's going on here."

Mr J.B. Jayaratnam, a former opposition member of Parliament, said the arrests amounted to institutionalized intimidation. "It is a complete disregard for law and order; the Government is acting like the mafia."

He was especially concerned about the arrest of Mr Seow, saying it would undermine the judicial system by making other lawyers afraid to act in similar cases.

Protests by the tiny opposition groups are unlikely to gain much open support in Singapore's docile and rigidly-controlled society.

A Western diplomat said: "There will be muttering among young professionals... but there will be no rioting in the streets."

Splitting hairs in the battle for votes

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

A main difficulty facing the French in deciding how to vote has been the reluctance of any of the principal candidates to engage in straight talking on issues.

This is partly because of a convergence of views among the centre left and right, but also results from the unwillingness of the three main candidates to alienate the floating vote needed for the second round. But certain themes - such as Europe, immigration, the economy, unemployment, defence and education - have run through the campaign and differences in approach emerged.

President Mitterrand cited the challenges of Europe in the 1990s. Only he was capable of omitting France to prepare for a Europe "sans frontières" in 1992, M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, quickly took

up the theme, placing the emphasis on building an economically strong France capable of protecting its interests. M Raymond Barre has all along preached that there must be greater political incentives for investment if French industry is to compete.

Immigration, much to the satisfaction of M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front candidate, has been one of the dominant themes, as it was in the 1986 general election.

The accent has been on whether non-French immigrants should be given any voting rights and if the National Code should be reformed.

The reluctance on the right to alienate the National Front vote in the second round is demonstrated by M Chirac's refusal to provide answers in an immigration questionnaire

published in the left-of-centre newspaper *Libération* yesterday. Only M Mitterrand is considered to have stuck his neck out by stating that immigrants should have the right to vote in council elections. But this is not a new statement, and nothing was done to implement such a policy between 1981 and 1986 when the Socialists were in power.

M Chirac says that the ambitious privatization programme, begun when his Government came to power in 1986 but halted after last October's Black Monday on the Bourse, will continue.

M Mitterrand says that he will neither continue this programme nor rationalize the companies already privatized. M Barre's position is unclear.

No one now talks of solving the unemployment problem, with the rate running at 10-11

per cent. Instead, the words used by the three main candidates are investment, development and education. All three want to bring in some form of minimum income for all the unemployed and underline the need to educate young people better to enable them to find jobs. But no one has had the courage to bring up the question of how to reform the present higher education system. It has been proved over the years to be the one subject that gets the French on the streets in force.

Consensus on French foreign policy means that it is one of the untouchables in election campaigns. Nevertheless, M Mitterrand's Gaullist stand on France's nuclear deterrent as a vital means of preventing war, not winning it, has led M Chirac to underline his Government's military defence

spending and a wish to enlarge French nuclear options.

All three couple nuclear disarmament with a need to redress the conventional arms balance between the Soviet bloc and Europe.

While M Mitterrand emphasizes global disarmament and peace against nuclear stock-building and war, M Chirac stresses the dangers in conventional and chemical arms for Europe and M Barre warns of the perils of a decoupling between the US and Europe to Moscow's advantage. New Caledonia, the one area of foreign policy where there is a marked difference. M Mitterrand has stated that rights of both majority and minority must be considered in a form of self-government while M Chirac says a referendum shows the majority wants to stay French.

Credentials of the candidates

How the challengers measure up to Mitterrand

From Philip Jacobson and Susan MacDonald

M Francois Mitterrand (Socialist Party): At the age of 71, fighting his fourth presidential election, he hopes to become the first to serve two terms under the Fifth Republic.

Widely acknowledged as the most complete politician in the field, he is nicknamed "Le Florentine" for a devious touch, "Le Sphinx" for calculated impassivity, "Tonton" (Uncle) for his genuine popular appeal. M Mitterrand has all but abandoned the Socialist label under which he won in 1981, providing further ammunition for claims that he really sacrifices principle for personal advancement.

Of provincial bourgeois origins, M Mitterrand trained as a lawyer before distinguishing himself in the French Resistance. Entering politics to oppose De Gaulle, he served in almost a dozen ministries, created the present Socialist Party in 1981 and has dominated it ever since.

A complex, intensely private person, M Mitterrand kept France waiting to announce his candidacy, but the polls have vindicated the tactics of clinging to the aura of the presidency, the father of the nation rising above the vulgar political fray. Certain to survive the first round of voting.

M Jacques Chirac (RPR): The 55-year-old Prime Minister started the campaign slowly, but his furious energy and

limitless stamina quickly established him as the main conservative challenger. While extremely personable in private, his unabashed thirst for power and a certain pliability of conviction make it hard for the French to love him.

Despite a credible performance during the past two years of uncomfortable cohabitation with M Mitterrand, he retains a reputation for shooting from the hip rather than often, for cutting corners instinctively.

Starting in the civil service, he became an aide to President Pompidou, then launched into politics himself. Hand-picked as Prime Minister by M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1974, he quit two years later to build his own power base on Gaullist foundations. Standing against President Giscard d'Estaing in the 1981 election, M Chirac collected enough conservative votes to be blamed, reasonably, for ensuring the Socialist triumph. With characteristic tenacity, he bounced back to lead the right-wing coalition to power in the 1986 parliamentary elections.

M Raymond Barre (UDF): The self-styled "tortoise" of the campaign, this portly 64-year-old's insistence on addressing important issues in somewhat academic tones appears to have backfired. M Barre is undoubtedly the most serious of the main candidates. But without the support of a real party he is now struggling badly against M Chirac's well-oiled, lavishly

financed machine. Even so, his broadly centrist views and transparent decency kept him as the voters' favourite to challenge M Mitterrand in the second round.

Born on Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, M Barre was a respected professor of political

Paris (Reuters) - The British pop star, Sting, yesterday cancelled a scheduled appearance at a Paris election rally for President Mitterrand.

The cancellation was ascribed to "an overloaded schedule", but according to a source in the singer's recording company, Sting cancelled when he discovered the rally was not in aid of human rights, but part of M Mitterrand's re-election campaign.

economics before De Gaulle drew him into government. In 1976, though not an elected politician, he succeeded M Chirac as Prime Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing and was soon making himself spectacularly unpopular with an array of severe austerity measures. Two years later, M Barre became MP for Lyons. His adopted home town. His unswerving opposition to the cohabitation experiment, with its implicit criticism of M Chirac, earned him some powerful enemies among right-wing conservatives.

M Jean-Marie Le Pen (National Front): The latest election posters proclaim this rugged looking 60-year-old as

"L'Outsider" in the presidential stakes. M Le Pen knows he cannot survive the first round, but with between 12 and 13 per cent of the votes behind him, he seems certain to play a decisive role in the run-off. The heavy combination of xenophobia, patriotism and thinly veiled racism that he peddles has even won support from disenfranchised voters on the far left.

The son of a Breton fisherman, M Le Pen was schooled by the Jesuits. After serving as a paratrooper officer in Vietnam, he was active in the *Poujadistes* (conservative, reactionary movement to protect the interests of small traders), becoming an MP representing the populist group in 1956. More military service followed in Algeria, where opponents allege he was involved in ill-treatment of prisoners.

No longer a *Poujadiste*, he founded the National Front in 1972. After a resounding failure in the presidential election two years later, he recovered well enough to make the decisive breakthrough with almost 11 per cent of the vote in the 1984 European elections. Since then, "Le Grand Perturbateur" has relinquished his disruptive role in French politics.

Mme Arlette Laguiller (Workers' Movement): A small, slim 48-year-old with a kind face and a simple, direct way of speaking, she is standing for a third time as a candidate in the French presidential elections. She is one of the four

petits candidats standing against the five major candidates in the first round of voting.

Like the other three, she is from the extreme left. She represented the Workers' Struggle party in the elections of 1976 and 1981 and, it is agreed, appears not to have lost her enthusiasm in the intervening years.

Opinion polls give Mme Laguiller 1 per cent of the vote, down on her 2.5 per cent last time.

M Pierre Juquin (Independent Communist): A dissident Communist, he is the most important of the "little" candidates. M Juquin, aged 58, is a man of considerable charm, who was once a star of the official Communist Party before trying to reform its strictly pro-Moscow line.

He stands at just under 3 per cent in the polls, not far behind M André Lajoinie, the official Communist Party candidate, with 6 per cent.

M Antoine Waechter (Greens): At 39 he has taken up the Greens' banner for the first time. Although people feel he talks sense, there is no great ecological or peace movement in France. At a predicted 2.5 per cent, he has yet to reach his predecessor's level of nearly 4 per cent.

M Pierre Bousset (Workers' Party): A member of the wartime Resistance, he is also a long-standing activist on the far left who managed to get the 500 official signatures needed to enter the race.

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مكتبات الأصيل

US fears grow over effects of single European market

From Richard Owen in Brussels and Michael Dynes in London

The United States is becoming increasingly anxious about the political and economic implications of the drive to create a single European market by 1992, senior American officials in Brussels said yesterday.

Ironically, the American concern came as a survey of more than 200 European companies reported that almost 50 per cent of their executives thought the 1992 deadline for the creation of the unified market was unrealistic.

The US Embassy reported a "phenomenal increase" in inquiries about 1992 from American companies and individuals since the campaign got under way following the Brussels EEC summit on finance and farm reform three months ago. On the economic front, US multinational and established European subsidiaries should have "a foot in the door" when the single market is formed, sources said. But others want a share in the "rich pickings" of the enlarged market, and "the rules are not yet clear".

Current American investment in the EEC amounts to an estimated \$100 billion (almost £53 billion) a year, and US firms employ nine million European citizens. One senior American official said: "The internal walls may come tumbling down, but you are reinforcing the outer walls." "The Commission demands EEC-wide reciprocity.

Does this mean that when a US bank wants to open in London or Paris after 1992, the EEC will say no because there are too few Portuguese or Greek banks in the US?"

In foreign policy, Washington detects a trend towards discussion of political and security issues within the EEC as part of the 1992 integration process. It is urging Community leaders to confine defence-related matters to Nato, where America has "a seat at the table". On Monday, Mr George Shultz, the American

Internal walls may fall, but outer walls are being built up

Secretary of State, meets European foreign ministers at Nato before they hold a separate gathering in Luxembourg later that day to discuss EEC foreign policy, including the Western response to hijacking.

One senior diplomat said: "The US-European relationship is evolving. There is a window of opportunity over the next six months, and we must use it to ensure that the transatlantic relationship gets on to a sounder footing."

The US Chamber of Commerce in Brussels said many American firms feared that the 1992 process would create a "protectionist" internal European market, promoting free movement of people, goods and services across EEC frontiers but excluding "third parties". This prospect has already alarmed the Scandinav-

vian countries, but is now prompting a rising tide of queries from US enterprises, a chamber spokeswoman said.

Yesterday's concern came as the House of Representatives in Washington passed the controversial US Trade Bill - seen in Europe as protectionist - despite the risk of a veto by Mr Reagan. US diplomats maintained that many protectionist clauses had been removed from the Bill (which has gone to the Senate), and it would be a mistake for the EEC to retaliate in a protectionist way.

The new US Trade Bill is seen in Europe as protectionist

But US officials warned that the EEC would have to be "more flexible" over farm trade and stop resisting the radical American plan for an end to all agricultural subsidies by the year 2000.

Community sources reported that Mr Frans Andriessen, the commissioner for agriculture, was "sick and tired" of being "put on the defensive" by Washington. The EEC had reformed its Common Agricultural Policy at the Brussels summit and was committed to a gradual reduction of subsidies within Gatt, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Diplomats said there was also growing concern about 1992 in Japan, whose companies in the EEC are being increasingly penalized by the Commission for operating so-called "screwdriver" plants.

These assemble products from parts manufactured outside Europe, mostly in Asia, and then market them in the

EEC. This week, Brussels imposed fines on four Japanese electronic typewriter manufacturers for "screwdriver" practices. Trade tensions with Tokyo are also on the agenda of next week's foreign ministers session in Luxembourg.

The Commission this week announced a £30-million research programme to enable European firms to compete with both Japan and America, and said several firms - including GEC, as well as Thomson SA,

The new US Trade Bill is seen in Europe as protectionist

of France, and the Dutch giant Philips - had applied for research funding.

The European executive survey, conducted by *The Wall Street Journal* and the management consulting firm Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc, revealed that many corporate chiefs were not convinced that the single market would act as a boost to economic growth, or help European companies fend off competition from their US and Asian rivals.

Indeed many business leaders are sure that increased competition will only exacerbate Europe's tenacious unemployment problem, as European companies - deprived of their protected national markets - are confronted by successive waves of competition from both inside and outside the EEC.

South Korean students riot over polls



A South Korean student confronting a contingent of riot police during an anti-government demonstration at Chungang University in Seoul yesterday.

the dictatorship," and "Overthrow the ruling party," they chanted.

The clashes came as the Government deployed thousands of riot police across the nation to crack down on growing campaign violence.

The worst clash came at Joang University in Seoul when hundreds of riot police marched on to the campus to stop a march by students from nine colleges. Protesters hurled hundreds of stones and fire-bombs that exploded in sheets of burning petrol. Police replied with barrages of tear gas.

Police also used tear gas to break up a violent student protest in the southern opposition stronghold of Kwangju. Clashes were also reported at two other Seoul colleges and at Donggi University in Pusan.

Several injuries were reported in the clashes, but no overall figures of the casualties were available. TOKYO: North Korea yesterday accused South Korean soldiers of firing several rounds across the demilitarized zone on Thursday evening and of destroying some equipment at a guard post.

Lange sets out to melt EEC hearts over butter quota

From Richard Long, Wellington

When Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, argues his case in talks in London next week for continued access to Europe of his country's exported butter, it will be against a background of growing concern over what is seen as Britain's preoccupation with the EEC at the expense of old friends.

Before he left Wellington Mr Lange dismissed any argument based on emotions and said he would be putting New Zealand's case as the world's most efficient butter producer. But it is seen as significant that Mr Lange, who arrives in London tomorrow, will on Monday lay a wreath in the Anzac Day ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, in memory of New Zealanders who died on European and North African battlefields in two world wars.

He will also visit New

Zealand has for butter. It could not sell the same amount anywhere else for anything near the same price.

Mr Lange is not merely arguing for £1 million, but for the future of an unsubsidized dairy industry which, he says, while the most efficient producer in the world, is being driven from the market place by subsidized production from elsewhere.

Mr Lange said that the case he would present to Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, would go back to the issue of what the economics of the world were all about.

"It is quite alien to that type of thought to have the best, most efficient producer of the highest quality product locked out of the market for political reasons," he said.

There was a realism in the British Government's economic approach to such matters and a hard-headed approach by New Zealand could well be effective in London, he believed.

But Mr Lange at the same time acknowledged that this view would not necessarily prevail across Europe.

While Mr Lange is not noted for treading carefully, New Zealand officials say he will try to keep out of the minefield posed by the Danish moves on the issue of limiting nuclear warships. Mr Lange's Government bans visits by nuclear-powered ships or ships carrying nuclear weapons, a stance which has ended visits from the Royal Navy and the United States Navy and led to New Zealand's effective suspension from the Anzus alliance with the US and Australia.

Mr Lange has so far refused to comment on the Danish moves.

But any attempt by him to send encouraging signals to the Danish anti-nuclear lobby is seen as likely to bring down the wrath of Mrs Thatcher on his head - and to leave him with butter on his face rather than on British plates.

Speeding row: The New Zealand Justice Department has apologized to Mr Lange for taking more than a year to prosecute him for speeding, and then sending the receipt for his fine to another man (Reuter reports).

Mr Lange said the fine showed that no one was above the law. He revealed that the case was more than a year old and criticized the Justice Department for taking so long to prosecute.

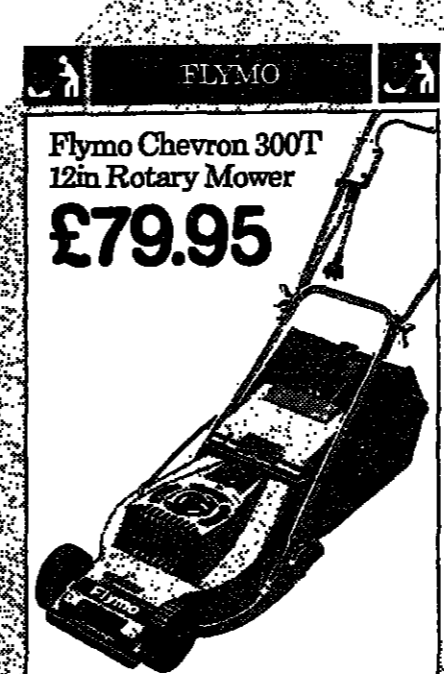
"The whole saga is not something of which I am particularly proud," the head of the department's court division said in the report published yesterday.

The matter came to light early this month when an Auckland man received court papers and a receipt for 285 dollars (£100). They carried Mr Lange's name and home address. The report said that the offence happened on December 26, 1986, but because of a computer mix-up Mr Lange did not receive formal notice until February 25 this year. The fine was actually imposed on March 3 and paid on March 29.

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Partial view of another article on the left side of the page, including a photo of a man and some text fragments.

This time last year we contemplated the hideous fate of the first team ever to be thrown out of the Football League as an automatic punishment for finishing bottom of the fourth division. What fools we were: Lincoln City, cast into the wastes of the GM Vauxhall Conference, have never had it so good. Their fight to get straight back has done wonders for the club and, what's more, promises to be successful. Last Saturday their match against Walsley attracted 33 sports writers, half a dozen photographers and two video teams, and the match was featured on radio's *Sport on 2*. The crowd was 4,159; the average for the season is 3,349. Last year in the fourth division, it was 2,022. Money from fund-raising activities is up, and this season the club has opened a new £900,000 stand.

Lincoln have a crucial match today at Kettering. Believe it or not, it is all-ticket, with a limit of 4,000. Lincoln sold their allocation of 800 in two hours. On Easter Monday Lincoln's home game attracted 7,522, their best crowd for six years. On this showing I can only assume that clubs at the bottom of the fourth division must be praying for relegation.

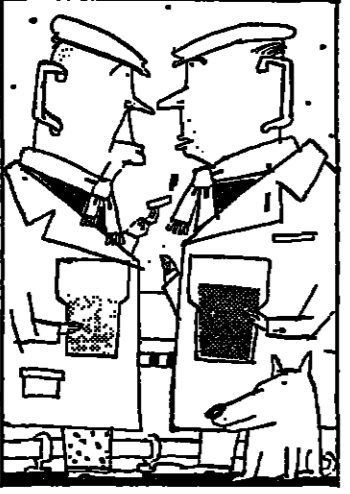
Lincoln manager Colin Murphy certainly deserves attention for these thoughts from last week's programme: "Thinking that the race is won by hurdling the last hurdle is always dangerous and the 'breasting of the tape' will possibly be an age from the last hurdle itself whether you be directors, supporters or management. However, as always, success often or always develops their circumstances and maybe it is a more dignified and testing trial to deal with products rather than product." You can't argue with facts like that, can you?

Quote of the Week: from Raymond Hubbard, who last weekend ran three marathons in three days, in Belfast, London and Boston, USA, each in less than three hours: "I think it was probably the hardest weekend in my 34 years."

One of the nice things about writing this column is the occasional suspect of gold brought to me by the postman. The other week I wrote about a former Grand National winner called Tipperary Tip. R.E.F. Maloney wrote to tell me: "The 1928 Grand National was won by Tipperary Tim, he was 100-1, and my father backed him. My share of the spoils was a J.B. Hobbs Force XXXX cricket bat."

The routine way to get ahead in English cricket is to acquire for yourself what Bob Willis once called the "latest nuclear weapon from the West Indies". This is the way the counties go, and this has long been the way of the northern league clubs. The awesome West Indian bowler Eldine Baptiste was leading wicket-taker for Kent last season, but at its close he was released. He had an offer from Oldham — but instead has joined St Gluvias, of the Cornwall Senior League. He will play on a tiny ground just outside Penryn for a fee for the season of around £10,000, to be paid by a Falmouth motor company called Dales. By one of those cosmic coincidences a Dales director, Andrew Ayres, is chairman and a playing member of St Gluvias.

BARRY FANTONI



'Our Jack's a bit of a gambler. He's backing Liverpool for the league'

In my opinion you are either a green-welly person or a yellow-welly person: horse people and yacht people can surely have no common ground, and I say this with all the conviction a horse-person can muster. Chay Blyth, the renowned yachtsman, has attempted to disprove this theory, and look where it has got him. He is even now preparing to sail in the Carlsberg Single-handed Transatlantic Race with his leg — broken in a riding accident — in plaster from the knee down. His boat is thought to have little chance of winning, but there is much speculation that Blyth will use it later to try to break the record from New York to San Francisco via Cape Horn. Blyth tried it once before, was shipwrecked, spent nine hours waiting for rescue, and swore he would never do it again. But you know what yachting people are — just as stupid as us horse people, now I think of it.

Brendan Powell's Grand National victory a fortnight ago was something of a miracle. For he managed it without his St Christopher medal and his cross. His mother had brought both from Lourdes, and Powell had sewn them inside a jumper, which he has worn every race day for the past six years. Powell's car was stolen at Easter and, though it was recovered, his riding gear, with the magic jumper, was missing. But Powell, saying his customary two Hail Marys and one Our Father before the race, won the National, thanks to a genuinely miraculous recovery at Becher's, and so collected the winning jockey's Citroen car as a bonus: a day for rejoicing indeed, St Christopher medal or not.

In Moscow on Wednesday, the Soviet Union accepted the plans for a baseball stadium to be built in the Lenin Hills outside Moscow. The plans were presented by Sigeyosi Matsumae, president of the Japanese university, Tokai, that designed it, and came with a gift of nearly £2 million to help build it. The Soviet Union officially recognized baseball two years ago, now has 30 teams and last month became the 65th member of the World Baseball Association.

This has not been the best of weeks for the National Theatre. On Tuesday it was announced that Sarah Miles would not, after all, be making her long-awaited return to the stage as Imogen in Sir Peter Hall's vaudeville production of *Cymbeline* because she was "unhappy with the role", which must have come as a sharp shock to Shakespeare. Sir Peter was also said to be "shattered and deeply disappointed".

By Wednesday the volatile but eccentrically talented Miss Miles was announcing that she had been sacked, though Sir Peter was still talking about "mutual unhappiness". By Thursday it was further revealed that another actor with a considerably longer and more distinguished classical record, Robert Eddison, had also disappeared from the production and there was the strong suggestion from his agent that his resignation had been, to say the very least, "invited" by the director. By yesterday, the opening of *Cymbeline* had been postponed for at least three days.

National departures inevitably make more news than a minor casting change at the leatherhead Rep, but it is more than a little unfortunate that Sir Peter's own farewell season on the South Bank should get off to such a shaky start with a violent series of backstage comings and

Sheridan Morley urges a division of authority at the National
Too much off-stage drama

goings so close to the May openings. This seems to raise a central issue of National management which could well be looked at carefully in the change-over from Hall to the new National director, Richard Eyre, who takes over in the autumn.

In Russia about 15 years ago, Trevor Nunn, who was then in sole charge of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and I were taken to meet the director of the Moscow Art Theatre, a man of Falstaffian proportions who sat behind a vast desk beneath a suitably huge golden seagull to symbolize his company's Chekhovian origins. Accustomed to the usual Hall and Nunn doubling of office and stage work at the National and the RSC, I asked him through the interpreter what play he was himself currently directing.

There was a very long pause. "Me?" he echoed in some disbelief. "Rehearsing? I run the Moscow Art Theatre. This is regarded in the Soviet Union as a full-time job. I have directors

who rehearse plays, actors who appear in them and designers who work on the sets. I myself do not have the time."

Looking across his office at Trevor Nunn, I said then, and I will say again now, that this seemed to me a perfectly admirable and enviable arrangement. No man running an organization of the size and complexity of the National or the RSC should also be expected to direct plays there, let alone avoid problems in rehearsal. Many other directors on the South Bank might well have got *Cymbeline* into the kind of casting troubles from which Hall is now suffering, but other directors there don't also have to worry about what is going on across three stages plus a restaurant and an art gallery and a bookshop, not to mention an underground car park.

If another director at the National had sacked a couple of actors, or perhaps even invited them to resign, that would not have made headlines, precisely

because those other directors would not be seen as the kind of figurehead who should be above such unseemly backstage quarrels. Hall has always made news because of the position he holds; when he moves next year to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and decides to part company with the occasional actor there, the story will not make the headlines. For as long as he is at the National, even in his closing weeks, his dismissals take on a needless weight and that is precisely why there should now be a division of labour at the top.

The problem is not of Hall's making, and few even among his enemies could doubt that he has been for 15 years an immensely distinguished director of the National. But his productions and his management of the building alike have suffered from the insistence on the double role, just as at the end of the previous Olivier regime Sir Laurence's performances occasionally began to betray the strains of his management.

As good luck would have it, Richard Eyre now moves into office with an unusually able and powerful administrator in David Aukin: if they can achieve a genuine partnership of equals, with Eyre in rehearsal and Aukin in the office, then it might be possible, just possible, to avoid some of the traumas which occur when an individual production runs into deep trouble and its director is also the figurehead for the whole backstage and on-stage operation of the building.

Even if Hall had not chosen to spend some of his National time at Glyndebourne and other addresses, it is still debatable whether he could have got the theatre into much better shape backstage while also directing his own productions there, and much of the discontent that one senses in talking to actors at the National (and, in all fairness, at the Barbican too) is concerned with a leadership which doesn't have the time to look after the company, essentially because it too is closeted in rehearsal

rooms when not on stage. We do not expect the director of British Airways to fly the aeroplanes out of Heathrow as well, and the sooner we accept the need for powerful subsidized-company administrators, the sooner it will be possible to escape from backstage chaos. The problem is that this country, unlike most in Europe, has never bred star administrators. Actors and directors have always been regarded as natural company leaders, and the pendulum has always swung between them.

Just as star actors often felt unable to work with the National as long as Olivier was calling the shots, so star directors have often felt unhappy there under Hall — why else would the company have lost such talents as those of Michael Blakemore and Jonathan Miller? A non-rehearsing administrator could solve many of those ego problems, and might even be able to attract back into the fold such actor-managers as Kenneth Branagh and Anthony Quayle, who have for the time being felt obliged to go it alone. Until we get that balance of power adjusted, we shall forever have to live with backstage crises which somehow suggest that tax-paid money is even more than usually at risk.
The author is Arts Editor and drama critic of Punch.

Conor Cruise O'Brien
Playing to an IRA gallery

Charles Haughey's New York outburst was not just an indiscretion or off-the-cuff response to the taunts of Irish-American sympathizers with the IRA. It has been building up for some time. Ever since Sir Patrick Mayhew's clumsily-worded announcement that there would be no further investigation into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's alleged "shoot to kill" policy, the Dublin government has been encouraging anti-British tendencies in the Irish media.

It is not that resentment at Sir Patrick's statement deflected Haughey from a policy — the operation of the Anglo-Irish Hillsborough Agreement — to which his government had seemed committed. The fact is that Haughey saw his opportunity to get off the hook of a policy, and an agreement, which he had always disliked.

Since he formed his present government, by the narrowest of possible margins, Haughey has had an aching problem with the agreement. On the one hand, it was popular with the electorate. So it wouldn't do just to tear it up, not with another election possibly round the corner.

On the other hand the agreement was deeply unpopular with a section of his own party, and this happened to be the very section which had done most to make him leader, and to back his leadership against the dissidents.

The agreement — with the related issue of extradition of terrorist suspects — brought the Haughey loyalists to the verge of mutiny last year: a most disturbing state of affairs for the leader of Fianna Fail.

It is probable also that Haughey shares many of the feelings of those devoted followers of his. In terms of the general Irish republican tradition, to a branch of which Haughey and his friends belong, the Hillsborough Agreement is a monstrosity. In terms of that

tradition, the agreement means co-operating with the British forces of occupation in help that anti-British feeling is at present sufficiently high for such a statement to be acceptable.

Haughey doesn't want to be seen, even now, as the man who broke off the agreement. But what if the British themselves can be portrayed as breaking it, at least in the spirit? That is how many in the Republic regard Sir Patrick Mayhew's statement, the outcome of the appeal by the Birmingham Six and the shooting of the three IRA bombers in Gibraltar.

This tactic has been working pretty well up to now but in his New York statement Haughey may have over-reached himself.

In Ireland there is a right and a wrong way of sounding anti-British. The right way is to do it discreetly. Jack Lynch was so good at it that he could sound anti-British to an Irish audience without the British ever noticing. And Lynch, unlike Haughey, was a man who won overall parliamentary majorities for Fianna Fail.

Haughey, who ousted Lynch from the party leadership, cannot be expected to achieve Lynchian standards in discretion. But on the whole, up to New York, he had handled his present anti-British line pretty well. He managed to sound like a man who was doing his best to



co-operate with the British, who for their part were making things impossible for him. Quite acceptable, all that. But New York was an exercise in overt Brit-bashing, and looked like an effort to please — or appease — an Irish-American pro-IRA gallery. That is unlikely to go down well with middle-of-the-road people in Ireland. The Irish-American super-patriots are not all that popular in Ireland. They come across and tell us, the Irish in

Ireland, that we are not patriotic enough to meet the exacting standards of those who left their country for good.

Even had it not been for that Irish-American gallery, I think the statement will still be likely to hurt Haughey politically as soon as its effects on Anglo-Irish relations are felt. If his government does indeed have as its "central driving

ambition" the creation of a united Ireland, then this is an inappropriate government for a people which is not in the grip of any such central driving ambition but just wishes Northern Ireland would stop. One reason the Anglo-Irish Agreement was so popular — once — was that it created a feeling that somehow the Northern Ireland problem had been solved, by an accord between "the two sovereign governments".

There are, however, few indications so far that the New York speech has yet done any harm to Haughey. The Dublin media has played down the Brit-bashing aspects of the speech, and in any case Hillsborough has lost most of its charm. But as the accelerating deterioration in Anglo-Irish relations becomes clearer to people in the Republic, I think that Haughey's effort to put all the blame for that on "the British" may fail to convince the floating voters when the election comes round.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY
The gaffer speaks

Washington
The Larry Speakes episode, a joyous festival of hypocrisy, ended on a poignant note when he lost his job. Speakes, President Reagan's former spokesman, had been hired at a huge salary by the financial giant Merrill Lynch & Co, which sacked him after the fuss over revelations — in his own newly published memoirs — that he occasionally made up quotes for Reagan. No doubt he had been making up quotes for Merrill Lynch executives as well — what else does a "vice-president for Corporate Communications" do? But by publishing his kiss-and-tell memoir he squandered his only real asset: friendship with those in power.

Made-up quotes are the heart of a thousand daily press releases. It might be nice if the president's press operation could be of a higher standard, but everyone knows this is a president who needs a script to say "Good morning" when a couple of senators drop by his office.

One of the quotes Speakes admits to fabricating was Reagan's reported remark at the 1985 Geneva summit. You only have to picture the scene to realize it is phoney. Imagine Reagan actually saying to Gorbachev: "Our differences are serious, but so is our commitment to improving understanding."

Yet one of television's star White House correspondents professed himself "dabbling" to learn that such a conversational gem was never uttered. The real joke is that this correspondent, like every journalist covering official life throughout the world, reports this sort of pap with a straight face every day. My favourite outraged reaction was that of a former press secretary to Presi-

dent Lyndon Johnson who declared huffily that he would never put out a made-up quote without making sure the president had seen it beforehand.

Speakes' book is the *reductio ad absurdum* of two publishing fashions. One is the fad for memoirs by big shots, ghost written by professional hacks in a sub-literary conversational style. It started with the phenomenal success several years ago of an autobiography "by" Lee Iacocca, the chairman of Chrysler Corporation.

Two things make Speakes' product, ghosted by one Robert Pack, especially absurd. First, he never was a real big shot. He was just a minor character who got his job by gruesome chance (when his superior was shot during the assassination attempt on Reagan). Second, although his only claim to fame is as a spokesman for someone else, he needs a third party to put words into his own mouth for a book. Sub-specialization in the plagiarism industry has really gone too far.

Mr Hack, I mean Pack, doesn't strain himself. When Speakes sat in the Oval Office, "I felt a cold shudder going down my spine... What's a kid from a dusty little cotton town in Mississippi doing here?" When Reagan heard about the Challenger disaster, he "had the saddest look on his face I have ever seen." And so on.

The other unfortunate development is that publishers hungering for Washington memoirs do not want a rounded portrait, let alone a serious discussion of public affairs, but rather little scooped bits of news that will make the front page. That, apparently, sells books, which is odd. Why shell out \$19.95 for a book when you've

already read all the juicy stuff in the papers? Publishers, I suspect, assume — correctly — that many books become bestsellers for reasons other than an actual desire to read them.

So the publisher hires a ghost to plumb the author's brain for "scoops". But scoops of a particular kind. For example, Reagan's former budget director, David Stockman, made headlines by saying in his memoirs that Reagan's tax cuts favoured the rich and would lead to huge deficits. Hardly news, the news was that Stockman said it.

Thus, in a weird twist of the hoary Washington practice of leaving office and cashing in, insiders are now in the business of selling their own gaffes. A gaffe is when a politician tells the truth — some obvious truth he isn't supposed to say. Capitalizing on the media's huge appetite for gaffes, insiders now manufacture them for profit.

Like cultured pearls, manufactured gaffes are more perfectly shaped but somehow less aesthetically pleasing than the natural kind. Since Speakes' views on any serious issue are of no conceivable interest, his manufactured gaffes consist entirely of insults to his former colleagues. Ed Meese is an "ideologue". Caspar Weinberger "a hard-liner, a small man, a whiny type of guy." Reagan "delegates many... duties to his subordinates" while Nancy is powerful behind the scenes and would "stab you in the back".

All this is deadly Washington cliché by now. It would be far more interesting if Speakes were to report that Reagan is actually a stickler for detail, Nancy is sweet and sensuous, and Weinberger is really six feet four. The author is editor of New Republic.

SCIENCE REPORT
Shedding light

Some remarkable plants that fluoresce with an amethyst hue under ultraviolet light can be seen on the front cover of *Science* (April 15). What is more, they have a sweet aroma absent from the normal species of which the fluorescent variety is a mutant.

Unfortunately, from the gardener's point of view, the mutant lacks vigour. But these properties are largely fortuitous and irrelevant to the geneticists who describe the mutant. Their aim is to have produced, by careful planning, the first plants that lack the ability to make a full complement of amino acids, the chemical building blocks of proteins. They hope that their discoveries will help provide details of plant metabolism.

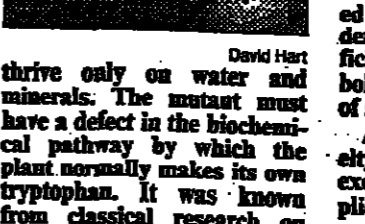
Robert Last and Gerald Fink of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology work on a weed called *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Common Wall Cress) favoured by geneticists because its genetic material is modest in quantity and uncomplicated in arrangement.

To select their mutant, Last and Fink grew *Arabidopsis* plants in the presence of a substance that normal plants would break down into poisonous by-products, whereas any variants that had lost the ability to make the amino acid tryptophan would leave the substance in a harmless form.

Tryptophan is an essential component in the human diet, since it cannot be synthesized in the body. But higher plants can make all the amino acids they need for growth, and

thrive only on water and minerals. The mutant must have a defect in the biochemical pathway by which the plant normally makes its own tryptophan. It was known from classical research on microbes that the defect was likely to be in an enzyme responsible for one of the steps in the pathway. A defective enzyme will leave a backlog of some intermediate biochemical somewhere along the line.

In the case of the fluorescent plants, the intermediate is a substance called anthranilate. This is normally broken down as soon as it is made by an enzyme called anthranilate phosphoribosyl transferase. But the gene for this enzyme is defective in the mutant plants so anthranilate accumulates in them, and, quite incidentally, anthranilate fluoresces. This allows the mutants requiring tryptophan to be easily distinguished from normal plants under an ultraviolet lamp.



David Hart
They are also distinguished by their small leaves and bushy appearance. And their profuse flowers are not as fertile as those of the normal plants. For some reason, feeding the mutants with tryptophan does not restore them to normal healthy vigour. Last and Fink think that many of the abnormal features of the mutants, especially their bushiness, could be related to hormonal balance.

Newborn plant growth is believed to be controlled by a hormone called auxin. This substance is chemically related to tryptophan and may be derived from it. So any deficiency in tryptophan metabolism could affect the levels of auxin in the plant tissues.

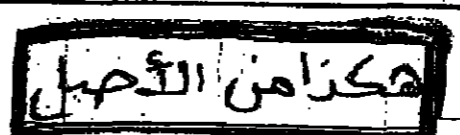
Apart from the plants' novelty value, the research will excite interest because it applies tried and trusted lab methods to produce new varieties of plant. New-tech genetic engineering is nowhere to be seen. Rather than introducing foreign genes, Last and Fink exploit the plants' inherent genetic potential to explore their biochemistry and generate new varieties.

And because many aspects of plant biochemistry are still unknown, they say the process of making the mutants, not just the final result, was instructive. Mutants such as these are valuable test beds for ideas about metabolism. The glow of these particular mutants may eventually illuminate the secrets of plant hormones, and the way plants grow.

John Maddox

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

France begins voting tomorrow for the great office of which this year is the 30th anniversary. Thirty years is a short time in the life of a political institution.

presidential, like one form of power to be balanced by another.

The interests of America's allies, and enemies, are at stake in the outcome of such constitutional dispute. It is the same with the Presidency of the Fifth Republic.

None has been re-elected by the mass franchise so far. M. Mitterrand is at present favourite to be re-elected because of that fettering in 1986.

Until two years ago, President Mitterrand was the partisan politician he had been all his long career. His cause - a revisionist socialism - was steadily making him unpopular.

Time is the probable explanation. It is very difficult for any partisan politician to be popular at the end of seven years.

What had happened was that, between 1986 and now, the institution of the presidency had evolved. It had done so in the way that political institutions often do: through the actions and character of a particular holder.

A Prime Minister permanently at the Assembly's mercy would plunge France and her allies back into the successive governments and parliamentary opportunism from which the present constitution rescued the country.

HACKING AT THE LAW

New technology leads to new forms of crime, and often needs new law to prevent it. The law of theft, for instance, was found inadequate to deal with joy-riding, and a new offence of "taking and driving away" was introduced to cover the gap.

Counterfeiting Act. That has now been rejected by the Law Lords. But the status of like acts is still not clear.

The average amateur hacker has become so fascinated by computing that this simple protocol is an affront to his ingenuity. His favourite mischief is to outwit such security precautions by instructing his computer to bluff its way past the password stage, so as to send and receive data uninvited.

Hacking which interferes with someone else's property, for instance by destroying data stored in a computer, is already covered by the criminal offence of malicious damage.

HALFWAY ACROSS THE RUBICON

There is a great deal less than meets the untutored eye in President Botha's latest announcement of a new constitutional deal for South Africa's voteless blacks.

ethnic bureaucracies. It would be easy to forgive Mr Botha for continuing down this unpromising path if it had yielded one positive result.

The plan is both elaborate in conception and vague in detail, but it bears all the well-known hallmarks of Pretoria's constitutional tinkering: the insistence on the group or race as the bedrock of the Constitution and the devolution to lower bodies of responsibility without power.

But this is no longer Mr Botha's primary concern. Instead, after the by-election shocks earlier this year which convinced the Government that Mr Botha could lead it to its first defeat in 40 years, his obsession has been to head off Dr Andries Treurnicht and his Conservative Party.

Role of Lords in poll tax clash

From Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, KG, CH, FRS Sir, From my reading of the Commons Hansard in yesterday's debate it seems to have been accepted by Mr Mates and the Leader of the Opposition that Government or other amendments to the community charge could lawfully be made in the House of Lords.

Living in peace with blacks

From Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes (Conservative) Sir, I live in a street in inner London where I have black neighbours on either side and across the street. I work in a church with black people and minister regularly to black families.

Mammon's big guns

From Mr T. G. Stanton Sir, Viscount Tenby's letter (April 18) misses the point. He says "is it right that Mammon should have all the big guns, and is this one of the more unacceptable faces of a free market economy?"

Equality in sport

From Mr Derek Wyatt Sir, Jeff Butterfield's letter and your leader (April 19) on the Zola Budd fiasco deserve further attention.

Delay at customs

From Mr N. A. Tatham Sir, Returning recently by car ferry from Calais to Dover, I was irritated by the long delay occasioned by my passing through the "red" channel to declare two cases of champagne (which were, incidentally, trade samples).

Words of wisdom

From the Vicar of Chelsea Old Church Sir, When Mr and Mrs Murphy (April 20) bring their child to be christened their local vicar will help them to see the profound depth of meaning and truth in the baptism service.

Musical aid

From Lady Barbirolli Sir, On February 18 your Spectrum page reported on the problems produced for young musicians by the high prices of musical instruments.

Disaster planning

From Mr B. H. Harvey Sir, Air Commodore Innes's statement (April 14) that the "Seveso" directive compelled the British Government to deal with major industrial hazards is almost the exact opposite of the facts.

Through the fog

From Mr David Mason Sir, Your report (April 12) of the Metropolitan Police's efforts to improve the standard of English throughout the force was read with great interest in this department.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 23 1934 The British soon shone at gliding: Philip Wills, CBE (1907-1978) was world champion in the single-seater contest in 1932 and F. N. Slingsby, MM (1894-1973) was a famous maker of winning sailplanes.

NATIONAL GLIDING SCHOOL

SITE SECURED IN YORKSHIRE From Our Aeronautical Correspondent The first steps are being taken to establish a British gliding school similar to the famous German centre at the Wasserkuppe.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 22: The Prince Edward attended a Gala Evening at the Oast Theatre, Tonbridge for the formal opening of a new extension and a performance of *Children of a Lesser God*.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Kent (the Right Hon Robin Leigh-Pemberton). Captain William McLean was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, President, Federation Equestre Internationale, left Royal Air Force Lyneham in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight this morning for Switzerland where Her Royal Highness will visit the 88 and attend an Executive Board Meeting in Lausanne.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam is in attendance.
CLARENCE HOUSE
April 22: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon opened the East Wing of the Princess Christian Homes of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops at Knaphill, near Woking, Surrey.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 22: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the President (the Duke of Westminster) and members of the council of the Game Conservancy Trust at Highgrove House, Doughton.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 22: The Duke of Kent arrived at Royal Air Force Marham this evening from Switzerland.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon attended the Annual Auction of the Kathleen Ferrer Memorial Scholarship at the Wigmore Hall, London W1. Miss Sarah Partridge was in attendance.

Lady Gabriella Windsor is six today.

Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage tomorrow.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr M.A. Anson, former chairman, Wessex Water Authority, 64; Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former actress and American diplomat, 60; the Most Rev Michael Bowen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, 58; Mr Bill Cotton, former managing director, BBC Television, 60; Lord Carew, 83; Mr Antony Craxton, television producer, 70; Mr J.P. Donlevy, author, 62; the Earl of Drogheda, 78; Baroness Dudley, 81; the Hon Victoria Glendinning, author, 52; Sir Arnold Hall, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group, 73; Mrs James Kirkup, travel writer, novelist and playwright, 65; Dr R.M. Laws, master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 62; Lord McAlpine of Moffat, 81; Colonel R.A.Sig. Martin, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 74; Sir Thomas Padmore, civil ser-

vant, 79; Sir Herbert Tetley, actuary, 80; Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman, Clydesdale Bank, 68.
TOMORROW: Sir Bernard Audley, chairman, AGB Research, 64; Mr Ralph Brown, sculptor, 60; Field Marshal Lord Carver, 73; Mr Justice Caulfield, 74; the Marquess of Cholmondeley, 69; Sir Gordon Cox, chemist, 82; Sir Clement Freud, former MP and writer, 64; Dame Helen Gardner, former chief clerk, Private Secretary's office, Buckingham Palace, 87; Admiral Sir Rae McKain, 66; Miss Shirley MacLaine, actress, 54; Sir Hugh Park, former High Court judge, 78; Mr Joseph Rank, president, Rank Hovis McDougall, 70; Miss Bridget Riley, artist, 57; Miss Barbara Strissand, singer and actress, 46; Mr John Williams, guitarist, 47.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1564 (he died there on this day, 1616); George Anson, Baron Anson, admiral, naval reformer, Shugborough, Staffordshire, 1697; Joseph Mallord William Turner, London, 1775; James Buchanan, 15th president of the USA 1857-61, Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, 1791; Max Planck, physicist, Kiel, 1858; Edmund Henry Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, field-marshal, Brackenhurst, Nottinghamshire, 1861; Lester Pearson, prime minister of Canada 1963-68, Toronto, 1897.

DEATHS: Boris Godunov, Tsar of Russia 1598-1605; Miguel de Cervantes, Madrid, 1616; Henry Vaughan, poet, Llanantiffred, 1695; Joseph Noakes, sculptor, London, 1823; William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate 1843-50, Rydal Mount, Cumbria, 1850; Rupert Brooke, poet, died on active service, Scyros, 1915.

Today is the Feast of St George, the patron saint of England (and of Aragon and Portugal). He is said to have been a Roman soldier, martyred about 300 during the Diocletian persecutions.
Tomorrow
BIRTHS: William the Silent, Prince of Orange, Nassau, 1533; Edmund Cartwright, pioneer of the poppet loom, Marnham, Nottinghamshire, 1743; Anthony Trollope, London, 1815; Marcus Clarke, writer, London, 1846; Sir Stafford Cripps, statesman, London, 1889.
DEATHS: Daniel Defoe, London, 1731; Maria Fagiolini, ballerina, Marseilles, 1884; Willa Cather, novelist, New York, 1947; Gerhard Domagk, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1939, Burgberg, Germany, 1964. The *Daily Express* was first published, 1900.

Luncheons
Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores of London, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs Brian Jenkins, attended a luncheon given by the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea at the Town Hall, Kensington, yesterday. Among others present were:

The Norwegian Ambassador and Mrs Bech; The Mayor of Copenhagen, the Deputy Mayor of Copenhagen, the Mayor of Oslo, the Mayor of London, the Mayor of Edinburgh, the Mayor of Glasgow, the Mayor of Belfast, the Mayor of Cardiff, the Mayor of Swansea, the Mayor of Plymouth, the Mayor of Exeter, the Mayor of Norwich, the Mayor of Ipswich, the Mayor of Southampton, the Mayor of Reading, the Mayor of Brighton, the Mayor of Liverpool, the Mayor of Manchester, the Mayor of Birmingham, the Mayor of Nottingham, the Mayor of Leicester, the Mayor of Derby, the Mayor of Lincoln, the Mayor of York, the Mayor of Peterborough, the Mayor of Northampton, the Mayor of Luton, the Mayor of Milton Keynes, the Mayor of Slough, the Mayor of Epsom, the Mayor of Guildford, the Mayor of Woking, the Mayor of Basingstoke, the Mayor of Fareham, the Mayor of Havant, the Mayor of Southampton, the Mayor of Winchester, the Mayor of Salisbury, the Mayor of Swindon, the Mayor of Reading, the Mayor of Oxford, the Mayor of Gloucester, the Mayor of Worcester, the Mayor of Hereford, the Mayor of Shrewsbury, the Mayor of Ludlow, the Mayor of Shropshire, the Mayor of Stafford, the Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, the Mayor of Derbyshire, the Mayor of Nottinghamshire, the Mayor of Lincolnshire, the Mayor of Yorkshire, the Mayor of Lancashire, the Mayor of Cheshire, the Mayor of Merseyside, the Mayor of Greater London, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Mayor of Greater Birmingham, the Mayor of Greater Essex, the Mayor of Greater Kent, the Mayor of Greater Surrey, the Mayor of Greater Hampshire, the Mayor of Greater Devon, the Mayor of Greater Cornwall, the Mayor of Greater Devon, the Mayor of Greater Cornwall, the Mayor of Greater Devon, the Mayor of Greater Cornwall.

Primrose League
Mr Harry Greenway, MP, was the guest speaker at a luncheon given by the Ealing branch of the Primrose League at the Carnarvon Hotel, Ealing Common, Mr Ronnie Politeyan, accompanied by Mrs Politeyan, presided. Councillor Martin Mallam, Group Captain Sam Goodman, the Hon Mrs Margaret Campbell and Mrs Edna Stephens also spoke.

Dinners
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
Mr Douglas Smith, Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, accompanied by Mrs Smith, received the guests at an annual dinner held last night at the Insurance Hall, Lord Justice and Lady Kerr and Sir Denis and Lady Roberts were among those present.

Muslim need for leadership against reckless radicalism

Hazhir Teimourian

It was significant that the gunmen in the latest hijacking chose the holy city of Mashhad in Iran as their original destination.

They expected support and sympathy in a country which has, for nine years now, been ruled by its clergy; the first time this has come to pass in a major part of the world of Islam in the name of doctrine and in pursuit of Muslim unity.

The experiment has been far from successful in the view of most people, but the Muslims are going through an unprecedented population boom with resultant political upheaval. Will the imams in other Islamic countries, who are under pressure from the radical young, draw any lessons from the Iranian revolution, and what might the lessons be?

History is not likely to be a helpful guide here, even though the relationship between mosque and state has been the subject of dispute for centuries. Ironically, Twelve Shiism, the branch of Islam in power in Iran today, for long represented the "quietist" sector in the debate, arguing that all involvement with politics would taint the *ulama*, the clergy, with the stain of moral compromise.

On the other hand, if successful in reducing corruption in the world, such involvement would delay the Day of Judgement, when the disappeared Twelfth Imam would reappear to put an end to the world and lift the faithful out of the prison of "dusty" earth.

At the beginning, when the community of Islam was small and confined to a coalition of tribes in Arabia, religious leaders also provided the government of the community, and the first four successors to Prophet Mohammed were "elected" - agreed on would be more precise - as Caliphs. But then affairs took a more normal course and seekers after

power found the attractions of courtly life and dynastic rule irresistible.

When the armies of the new state rode into Persia, Syria and Egypt and came into contact with immeasurably more sophisticated civilizations, there was no turning back, even though some Muslims nursed secret longings for the lost innocence of the founders and sometimes rose in rebellion.

Previous attempts at reviving the Islamic state resulted in the birth of the Fatimid Caliphate in Tunisia in the tenth century, the Safavid empire in Iran six centuries later, and the present kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But, unexpectedly, it is the Shia state of the ayatollahs which has made the most serious attempt to bridge the doctrinal gaps that have opened up among Muslims over the past 1,300 years.

By abolishing the principle of heredity rule, Khomeini has gone against the grain of Shiism, which came into being because it wanted the caliphate to remain in the family of the Prophet, and by involving the clergy in politics, he has rejected the quietist path trodden by so many of his predecessors.

Will this, however, be enough to persuade large numbers of mainstream Muslims to look upon him or his heir as Islam's new, much-needed spiritual authority? That would seem unlikely, for the Islamic Republic of Iran has been, so far, no advertisement for either liberty or prosperity. The moral standing of the ruling Shia clergy in Iranian society has never been so low.

But again, it would be a brave man who predicted the course of events in the crisis-ridden nations of the Third World. Who, for example, expected a major revolution in our time to be led by clergyism?

What can be said with confidence about the world of Islam is that the desire

for doctrinal reunification remains strong among the billion people adhering to the faith. It is also clear that the importation of such Western political creeds as "socialism" and "democracy" is failing to improve living standards for populations that often double in size every 20 years.

Under such circumstances, would it be surprising if the frustrated young chose only to emulate Khomeini's defiance of the status quo in the world and ignored the suffering he has inflicted on his people? One already does meet individuals in the Muslim countries who dismiss all reports of human rights violations in Iran as "imperialist propaganda".

Muslims would benefit from studying the evolution of the Vatican and Canterbury and from returning to the quietist tradition within their own faith. While it would be unrealistic at present to expect the emergence of a single centre of doctrinal authority for the whole Islamic world, the emergence of two or three such centres - say at Cairo and Qom, for the Sunnis and the Shia, respectively, - could help to answer the Muslims' need for religious figures occupying the spiritual high ground and able to pronounce on such urgent issues as population control, war between Muslim states and terrorism.

One of the greatest needs is for clear moral leadership in the Muslim world against the reckless radicalism inspired by Khomeini, for instance, to pronounce authoritatively that hostage taking and hijacking are totally unacceptable and indeed outlawed by the Koran.

That will not come about if the imams do not learn the lessons of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the fighting popes of the Middle Ages. The days of the priest king really ought to have come to an end with Babylonia.

OBITUARY

RUTH PLANT

In search of Ethiopia's architecture

Ruth Plant, who died on April 17, aged 75, was in the tradition of tough, intellectually adventurous English women who go off to remote parts to carry out exotic research. Her field was architecture and the work that won her academic acclaim was on the rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia and their Byzantine mural paintings.

The resultant book, *The Architecture of the Tigre, Ethiopia*, appeared in 1985 after twenty years of research.

She was the daughter of Dr Stella Churchill, who was once chairman of the old London County Council and a Labour Parliamentary candidate, and who also published learned works and maintained a notable *salon* of artists and politicians. Ruth Churchill inherited her mother's intellectual dynamism and dogmatism about politics, art, and architecture.

General Paul Freeman who has died in Monterey, California, at the age of 80, was a former Commander-in-Chief of the US Army in Europe, and of Central Army Group, Nato, in the 1960s.

But among fighting soldiers he will be chiefly remembered as the man who did so much to redeem the lamentable performance of American arms in the opening clashes of the Korean War, through his inspiring leadership of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.

When the North Koreans invaded the South in June 1950, the disaffected conscripts of the US 24th Infantry Division, who had been rushed to the scene from the feshpots of Tokyo, proved no match for their hardy opponents. As an army of occupation in Japan they had been long accustomed to a full belly, a soft couch, and transport on every occasion.

"How in hell am I going to teach these boys they can't always jeep to battle," lamented their commander, as the fleet-footed North Koreans repeatedly ran rings

around them. While one disgruntled veteran commented: "These guys had gotten used to ride company transport to go to the whorehouse".

Freeman, then a colonel commanding the 23rd Regiment in the 2nd Division, showed this "defeated rag-tag", as he called it, that the enemy could be beaten, but that it required that relentless desire to be at handgrips with the enemy, which is the hallmark of victorious infantry in all ages.

In July 1950, Freeman's regiment took part in the defence of the Pusan Perimeter. This stemmed the North Korean advance, but much stiffer fighting lay ahead.

In November the Chinese threw their weight into the scales on the Communist side, and the Americans looked like being rolled into the sea yet again. On one occasion, in February 1951, the 23rd Infantry Regiment was assaulted by five Chinese divisions, and completely cut off. Its fate appeared to be sealed, but Freeman and his men refused to be daunted. Supplied by air,

the 23rd Regiment fought on against overwhelming odds for three days before being relieved. During this battle, Freeman himself was wounded.

This action, which stabilized the situation on the central front, had a heartening effect on the entire American army in Korea.

Freeman, a graduate of West Point, had served two tours of duty in China in the 1930s, and was Assistant Military Attaché in Chungking when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

This made him a natural candidate to become Stilwell's Chief of Staff, in the China-Burma-India theatre. This irked him, as combat was his first love. But he got his chance to fight later in the war, when he took part in the Sixth Army's campaign to reconquer the Philippines.

After the Korean War he held high rank, and was C-in-C US Army and Central Army Group, Nato, from 1965 to 1967.

He leaves his widow, Mary Anne, and a daughter.

GENERAL PAUL FREEMAN

TCHICAYA U TAM'SI

Tchicaya U Tam'si, the Congolese poet, novelist and playwright, died on April 21, at the age of 57. For some 20 years he had been one of the most highly respected of all African writers in French.

Gerard Felix Tchicaya U Tam'si was born in 1931 at Npili in what was then the French colony of Moyen Congo, now the Congolese Republic. When he was 15 his father was elected Deputy to the French National Assembly, and he began his education in French lycées in Orleans and Paris.

From 1946 onwards he lived in France for long spells, and Paris was the true centre of his activities, even though he refreshed himself by quite frequent visits home.

Tam'si's poetry is by no means easy to grasp, so that his high reputation is all the more remarkable. In 1955 he published his first collection,

the influence of Césaire proved fruitful, however, in

le Mauvais Sang (Bad Blood). The volumes that followed it include *Epitomé* (1962), which had an important preface by L. S. Senghor, and *Le Ventre* (1964) (The Belly).

The Anglo-Saxon world is fortunate in possessing an admirable translation of many of the best of Tam'si's poems in *Selected Poems* (1970), made by Gerald Moore.

There was also a translation, *Brush Fire*, of one of his collections, *Feu de Brousse* (1964), by Sangodare Akpanji, the Nigerian writer Ulli Beier.

The greatest influence on Tam'si's poetry was undoubtedly the Martinique poet Aimé Césaire - Senghor was a weaker influence - from whom he derived the use of Surrealism that enriches his poetry but makes it difficult to get into.

His late poetry became more concrete and a great more subtle in tone.

MR I. A. L. DIAMOND

Mr I. A. L. Diamond, Hollywood scriptwriting partner of Billy Wilder in some of the most literate as well as successful Hollywood hits like *The Apartment*, *Some Like It Hot* and *Irma La Douce*, died at his Beverly Hills home on April 21. He was 67.

Diamond, who once quipped typically that his initials stood for "intercollegiate algebra league", won the screenwriters' Oscar in 1960 with *The Apartment*, the comedy starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley Maclaine, as well as that year's New York Critics' Award.

Isidore Diamond, as he was also known, was born in Romania, going to the United States when aged nine. He went to Hollywood in 1940, finally meeting Wilder to initiate a writing partnership spanning 30 years.

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that Tam'si was eventually able to throw it off when he had taken all he needed from it.

He was, above all, a poet of his native land. Horrified by the idea of dying without knowing his ancestral roots, and therefore himself, he pursued his own image relentlessly.

He was working as an editor in Leopoldville in the summer of 1960, and therefore saw the tragedy of the imprisonment and murder of Patrice Lumumba. These events he records in *Epitomé*. These are perhaps still his best known poems.

He also wrote poems about the black American Emmett Till, lynched "for looking with desire on a white woman".

His late poetry became more concrete and a great more subtle in tone.

It was in the mid-1960s, when she had occasion to travel to Ethiopia, that she discovered that no architectural studies had been made of the rock-hewn churches. She embarked on her *magnum opus*, returning every year to that difficult country, surveying and recording in conditions that were always arduous and often dangerous. On one occasion she had to be nursed back to health by her guide for a month, after having been knocked unconscious falling from her mule.

Her contribution to her sphere was recognized by the award of an *MLitt* in 1972, and her work is acknowledged in Banister Fletcher.

Her second husband died in 1980. She is survived by two sons of the first marriage and by a son and daughter of the second.

GENERAL PAUL FREEMAN

General Paul Freeman who has died in Monterey, California, at the age of 80, was a former Commander-in-Chief of the US Army in Europe, and of Central Army Group, Nato, in the 1960s.

But among fighting soldiers he will be chiefly remembered as the man who did so much to redeem the lamentable performance of American arms in the opening clashes of the Korean War, through his inspiring leadership of the 23rd Infantry Regiment.

When the North Koreans invaded the South in June 1950, the disaffected conscripts of the US 24th Infantry Division, who had been rushed to the scene from the feshpots of Tokyo, proved no match for their hardy opponents. As an army of occupation in Japan they had been long accustomed to a full belly, a soft couch, and transport on every occasion.

"How in hell am I going to teach these boys they can't always jeep to battle," lamented their commander, as the fleet-footed North Koreans repeatedly ran rings

around them. While one disgruntled veteran commented: "These guys had gotten used to ride company transport to go to the whorehouse".

Freeman, then a colonel commanding the 23rd Regiment in the 2nd Division, showed this "defeated rag-tag", as he called it, that the enemy could be beaten, but that it required that relentless desire to be at handgrips with the enemy, which is the hallmark of victorious infantry in all ages.

In July 1950, Freeman's regiment took part in the defence of the Pusan Perimeter. This stemmed the North Korean advance, but much stiffer fighting lay ahead.

In November the Chinese threw their weight into the scales on the Communist side, and the Americans looked like being rolled into the sea yet again. On one occasion, in February 1951, the 23rd Infantry Regiment was assaulted by five Chinese divisions, and completely cut off. Its fate appeared to be sealed, but Freeman and his men refused to be daunted. Supplied by air,

the 23rd Regiment fought on against overwhelming odds for three days before being relieved. During this battle, Freeman himself was wounded.

This action, which stabilized the situation on the central front, had a heartening effect on the entire American army in Korea.

Freeman, a graduate of West Point, had served two tours of duty in China in the 1930s, and was Assistant Military Attaché in Chungking when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

This made him a natural candidate to become Stilwell's Chief of Staff, in the China-Burma-India theatre. This irked him, as combat was his first love. But he got his chance to fight later in the war, when he took part in the Sixth Army's campaign to reconquer the Philippines.

After the Korean War he held high rank, and was C-in-C US Army and Central Army Group, Nato, from 1965 to 1967.

He leaves his widow, Mary Anne, and a daughter.

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THE THYSSEN MASTERPIECES



Both a halo and crown

The Madonna of the Dry Tree, by Petrus Christus (c1410-1472): The artist, a follower of Jan van Eyck, has set his Madonna and Child among dry branches which resemble both a halo and a crown of thorns. And hanging from the twigs are 15 Gothic 'a's', each symbolizing an Ave Maria. The Virgin, set at the centre of this tiny oak panel (14x12 cms), wears a red robe covering a blue dress edged with ermine. The picture is on show in the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, sponsored by The Times, at the Royal Academy until June 12.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.M. Hamilton and Miss E. Nickerson
The engagement is announced between Thomas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Frederic C. Hamilton, of Denver, Colorado, United States, and Eugenic, daughter of Lady Nickerson and step-daughter of Sir Joseph Nickerson, of Rothwell, Lincolnshire.

Mr M.W. Critchley and Miss T.J. Large
The engagement is announced between Mark William, only son of Mr and Mrs John Critchley, of Harrogate, and Tarulla Janet, daughter of Mr and Mrs George A. Large, of Linton.

Mr A.G. Davies and Miss L. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Alec, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Davies, of Dar es Salaam, and Putney, and Lorna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Robertson, of Kirkcaldy.

Mr J. Davies and Miss J.M. Rowlandson
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, only son of Mr and Mrs Clement Davies, of Aberystwyth, Mountain Ash, Mid-Glamorgan, and Jacqueline Mary (Jacky), younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice Rowlandson, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Baron A.J. Ficks and Miss S.F. Murray
The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Baron and Baroness Alexander Ficks, of Linsomes Farm, Murvur, Zimbabwe, and Susie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Murray Threipland, of Henlys Farm, Dyfed, Wales.

Mr R.B.W. Gumpert and Miss D. Fabers
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Dr and Mrs John Gumpert, of Sheffield, and Dorothee, daughter of Dr and Mrs Friedhelm Fabers, of Viersen, Germany.

Mr J.W.W. Ker and Miss D.C. Stein
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Dr and Mrs John Willwood Ker, of Liss, Hampshire, and Donna Carole, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Stein, of Oakland, New Jersey.

Mr T.D. Masey and Miss A.J. Driscoll
The engagement is announced between Tim, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs C.J. Masey, and step-son of Mrs Dawn Masey, of Wallington, Surrey, and Angela, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs B.H. Driscoll, of Coulsdon, Surrey.

Mr C.E. Pickard and Miss J.E. Brown
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Colonel and Mrs E.C. Pickard, of Midhurst, West Sussex, and Janet, daughter of Dr and Mrs E.J. Brown, of Colwall, Herefordshire.

Mr P. Rose and Miss E.S. Ross
The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Ross, of Pentland Terrace, Edinburgh, and Elizabeth Sarah, only daughter of Mr A.S. Ross and the late Mrs J.L. Ross, of Greenbank, Edinburgh, and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Lieutenant G.L.D. Ruddick, RHF and Miss V.A. Boor
The engagement is announced between Graham Kenneth David, only son of Wing Commander David Ruddick, of Esher, Surrey, and Mrs Fiona Ruddick, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Valerie Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Berttram Boor, of Poole, Dorset.

Mr R.W. Thompson and Dr J.M. Willmer
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs G.A. Thompson, of Worcester, and Jenny, daughter of Mr J.F. Willmer, OC, of Hampstead, London, and Mrs N.A. Willmer, of Croydon, Surrey.

Mr J.N. Wilding and Miss S.F. Bishop
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs R.W.L. Wilding, of Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.G. Bishop, of St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France.

Dr R.B. Wiles and Dr D.E. Glasgow
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Dr and Mrs Wiles, of Cambridge, and Mrs Judith Wiles, of Sydney, Australia, and Dawn, daughter of Dr and Mrs T.C. Glasgow, of Seaview, Isle of Wight.

Appointments

Mr William Hannab to be a Circuit Judge on the North Eastern Circuit.
Mr Timothy R. G. F. Ryland to be a Circuit Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.
Baron Adamson to be head of publications and retailing at the National Portrait Gallery; Carole Patey to be head of publicity and gallery development.
Dr John Wall to be Secretary of the Medical Defence Union from next January, in succession to Dr John Brooks Barnett.
Professor B. Ashmole
A memorial service for Professor Bernard Ashmole, Lincoln Professor of Classical

SATURDAY

April 23-29, 1988

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The knot in the heart of Seoul

After visiting the Olympic city, Chris Peachment feels this year's competitors may find the stadiums the most civilized places in town



I first encountered kimchi breath in the lift of the hotel. There was no one in the lift, but the previous occupant had obviously been eating kimchi...

No one has much to say that is complimentary about the Koreans or their country. James Cameron, who covered the Korean War, talked of the dust, which was worse than any dust normally experienced by human kind...



Who goes there? The security guard standing at the entrance to the main Olympic stadium will have a tendency to assume the answer 'foe'. Koreans, a much-invaded people, regard the world with some mistrust

and the contrast could not have been greater. The Thais, as well as being the most beautiful Asian race, have a modest, retiring air about them which is graciousness itself...

is a look often visible on the faces of Hungarians or Poles; peoples who have been invaded too often, and cannot lay claim to many victories in their past.

Indeed, since Korea's own version of the "economic miracle" of the Seventies, Seoul has come to resemble some parts of Tokyo, as much as it can be said to resemble anywhere at all.

Traditional Korean houses (of which there are very few left) took a lot of looking after, and the traditional method upon marriage and the founding of a family home was to import the grandparents to look after the house.

It looks like Oxford Street after a collision between a street trader's stall and an Arthur Daley lorry. The tailors here will run you up a suit with the customary oriental speed...

money while leaving the wallet intact. If, like everyone else, I have seemed unkind about the face of Seoul, I should add that there were two people there who greeted me more hospitably than anyone else ever has on a foreign trip.

INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes items like Arts Diary, Bridge, Chess, Concerts, Crossword, Dance, Drink, Eating Out, Film, Gardening, Photography, Reviews, Rock & Jazz, Shopping, Times Cook, Travel, TV & Radio, TV Film.

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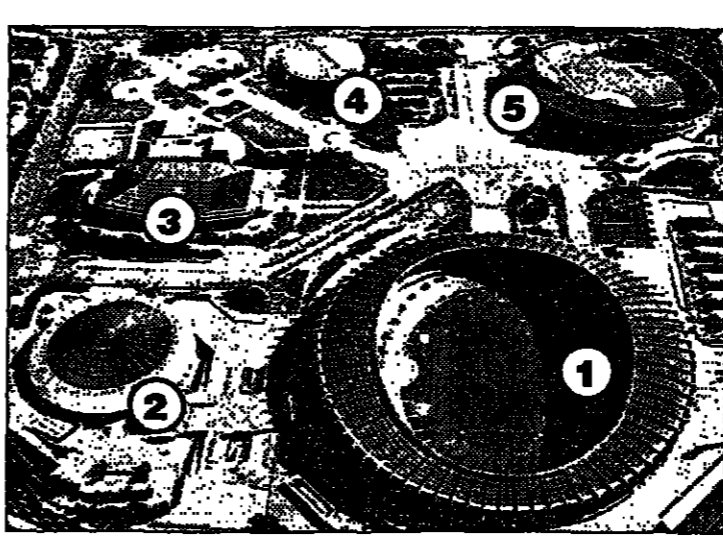
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Ways to the Olympics

The fastest way to Seoul from London is via Japan on one of the non-stop flights over the trans-Siberia route, reaching Tokyo in under 12 hours.



1 The main Olympic stadium, built for the Asian Games of 1986. This asset encourages Koreans to talk of making up to \$90 million profits.

Only one decaffeinated coffee is now golden roasted, richer, smoother.



'Nescafé' and 'Gold Blend' are registered trade marks to designate Nestlé's instant coffees.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

TRAVEL NEWS

Refunds, not surcharges, on holidays are a real possibility by mid-summer...

Intasun's managing director Roger Heape said: "We believe that there may well be refunds on the airlines this summer on fuel..."

The first of next winter's ski holiday brochures are out with good deals for those prepared to book now...

Seven of the 1,800 Britons who caught malaria on their travels last year were killed by the disease according to statistics from MASTA...

Avoiding bites as well as taking anti-malarial drugs is now routinely advised for travellers visiting affected areas...

TRAVEL BOOKS

Getting on with it where other men only dream, Robin Neillands (a regular contributor to these pages) went Walking Through France From the Channel to the Camargue...

A view from the grandstand

William Greaves takes the high road to the North Rim and enjoys the glories of the Grand Canyon far from the madding tourist crowd

Take any monumental freak of nature and you can bet your last travellers cheque that the finest view will be from the very point at which a multitude of camera-clad itinerants, recently decanted from coach and car, is gathering.

To drive the 50-odd miles due south from Jacob Lake through the misleadingly pastoral amalgam of Douglas pines and lush green meadows of Northern Arizona, however, is to arrive in one breathtaking moment of unsurpassable majesty upon one of the best kept secrets of the whole American tourist adventure.

At the end of the road stands a single, isolated lodge. Park your car, walk through the lobby and out on to the terrace, and suddenly you are staring down into that precipitous kaleidoscope of mists and shadows that constitutes the Grand Canyon.

'It's one of the best kept secrets of the whole American tourist adventure'

There is nothing secret, of course, about the canyon itself. The gorge that carries the Colorado River through the Rocky Mountains and out into the blistering heat of the Nevada desert is visited, almost by obligation, by hundreds of thousands of sightseers every year.

But they are on the other side of the chasm, which, mirabile dictu, is the wrong side of the chasm. Why they are there, huddled together on the barren south rim within a township of hotels and lodges, is because they have been magnetically attracted by a network of air and road routes and a climate that makes access possible all year round.

Another explanation for why only a handful of Grand Canyon cognoscenti will direct the traveller's steps to the north rim is that its most convenient approach is a day's drive from Las Vegas - and most people who climb off a plane in that desert playground have



Breathtaking: a bird's eye view of the gorge that carries the Colorado River through the Rocky Mountains and out into the Nevada desert

little intention of using it as a launch pad to nature's masterpieces.

The two rims are 10 miles apart by crow's flight. The super-fit human may don back-pack, descend 5,000 vertical feet down the South Kaibab trail, cross the river by single-file bridge through a summer cauldron of 120°F, climb 6,000 feet and arrive at the North Kaibab trailhead 20 miles and three or four days later. By car the

two rims are a discouraging 215 miles apart.

As less than seven per cent of all Grand Canyon voyeurs ever venture beneath the edge, let alone traverse one of the most demanding safaris in the western world, it is small wonder that few have the personal experience to compare one location with the other.

Four who do are the woman lawyer from Denver, Colorado, and her three male companions,

who I met coming towards me at Roaring Springs, five walking miles and 3,500 feet beneath the North Rim. I was well ready to turn about and the handicap of the weight on their backs and the distance they had covered from Cottonwood Camp at daybreak (not to mention their previous days on the hoof) enabled me to keep pace as we traipsed the steep zig-zag path past the ever-changing rock structures, fauna (including a close encounter

with a spotted skunk) and flora to the top.

They were glad enough of the sight of my car at the trailhead and the offer of a lift to the lodge to insist on buying me a drink on the terraces. Together we watched as the sunset cast the patchwork of ridges far beneath us into smouldering crimson.

"Jesus!" exclaimed one of them, a delighted blasphemy which the Almighty must have heard from

this spot on countless earlier occasions. "Do all those guys over the other side realize what they're missing?"

It is that extra thousand feet on the North Rim - it is closed by snow, or the likelihood of it, between October and May - which makes the difference. While the view from the south is abruptly halted by the cliff face opposite, the one in the opposite direction takes in the San Francisco Peaks, silhouetted on the horizon 70 miles beyond. And whereas Grand Canyon Village is set in an almost lunar landscape on the edge of Arizona's Painted Desert, the North Rim is above tree level, lending it an infinitely more varied and picturesque environment.

The northern visitor has another advantage too. Instead of an interesting but seemingly interminable approach from Flagstaff, Arizona, through the Painted Desert, the drive to North Rim out of Las Vegas can take in the two Utah national parks of Zion and Bryce Canyon - the one spectacularly beautiful and the other a natural amphitheatre almost as awe-inspiring as Arizona's Grand Canyon itself.

'Jesus! Do all those guys over the other side realize what they're missing?'

By arrangement with the American National Parks, the same company that operates the Grand Canyon lodge has similar lodges at Zion and Bryce. All three blend tastefully with their surroundings; their log cabin bedrooms are spacious and comfortable, and the food is appetizing.

However, Zion and Bryce come with a word of warning. With a neatness of moral interpretation - I hesitate to use the word hypocrisy - Utah permits the charging of a handsome corkage fee to open the bottle of wine you have brought with you, while forbidding the sale on the premises of anything more alcoholically risqué than a bottle of local beer. Gourmets may travel in splendour - but must pack with care.

TRAVEL NOTES

Any flight to Las Vegas (preferably offering a fly-drive facility) sets you down within a day's drive of the North Rim, 8 1/2 hours non-stop via St George and Jacob's Lake.

Zion National Park, however, makes an ideal first-night destination, easily attainable by road between lunchtime and dinner, and a further night at Bryce Canyon is well worth while. Overnight or longer-stay lodge bookings should be made well in advance to TW Services Inc, PO Box 400, Cedar City, Utah 84720 (801-586 7686). Expect to pay about £30 a night for a small log cabin for two.

Advertisement for Sealink ferries: From £46 ROUND TRIP TO FRANCE. 60 hour return. Car plus driver. See your travel agent or phone 0233 47047.

Portrait of a Self-made City PETER NEWBOLD. For a free copy of this enthralling and informative story on American tourism...

Map of Bryce Canyon, Utah, showing locations like Jacob Lake, Zion, and Grand Canyon.

Virgin Summer Bargains - Florida Holidays from £268. Direct Non-stop Flights to Orlando. Choose Orlando on its own 7 nights from £349 14 nights from £419...

Jersey advertisement featuring a photo of a man and the text: 'And suddenly nothing else matters... Jersey Nearer to France, closer to home.'

Large advertisement for Virgin Atlantic: 'GEE! Whizz to America for £149.*' 'Aw, shucks! Our fares are so embarrassingly low, it's easier than ever to zip to the States.'

EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND advertisement with photos of children.

St. George's School in Switzerland advertisement: 12-18 years, British International Day School for girls (9-18 years)...

GUESS INTERNATIONAL advertisement: Informations and prospectus. Call 01-8333 Les Anvers/Montreux.

INSTITUT Talouse advertisement: Intensive French Courses. Lessons in small groups, all levels...

Study in Switzerland in Lausanne or Geneva advertisement: Includes French courses, English at levels (Cambridge and RSA)...

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Bournemouth advertisement: 'A few days by the sea, in the country, on the town.' 'Only Bournemouth has such richness. It welcomes you to one of Europe's most favoured sandy beaches...' Includes photo of a woman.

Bouquets of Barbican beauty

Gardening in the Barbican poses both aesthetic and physical problems. It is difficult to find a style for the inclement environment of dark towers and windy walkways.

The massive concrete buildings do not age gracefully and the standard Barbican window boxes, also concrete, are unsympathetic to plants. Nevertheless, the Barbican Horticultural Society, formed in 1980, has a busy membership which has influenced not only the private balconies and

windowsills but public spaces, where tubs are gardened by the residents.

The tubs have recently been joined by "traffic island" beds installed by the Barbican Corporation and together they hugely improve the gaunt walkways and courts. What works most effectively is clever, colourful semi-formal bedding: forget-me-nots, tulips and euphorbias, pale primrose wall flowers and broom. Set in wide clumps rather than lines, the plants

mediate between the geometry of the architecture and people.

The Barbican Spring Competition was held yesterday, and edging my way around the balcony gardens and window boxes, I realized that gardening (like living) in these conditions is a high density exercise. It also calls for boldness: brightly coloured tulips and wall flowers, garish in a more natural situation, challenge the concrete and provide bright flags of colour on the grey towers.

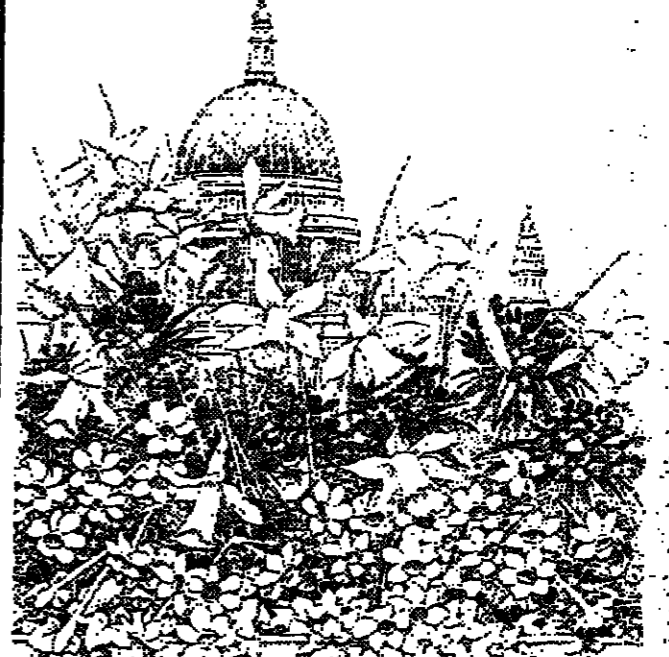
In the polluted and dusty atmosphere of the City of London, the scent of flowers is almost more important than colour. The window box winner, Mrs Amy Morgan, had wallflowers, scented geraniums and honeysuckle. Nearly all the other competitors also had a selection of strongly fragrant plants: rosemary, lavender, hyssop, and even the richly scented pheasant's-eye narcissus.

In shady conditions, the gardeners have made good use

of variegated plants: Euonymus, the small-leaved cream-flecked ivies and even the unusual New Zealand plant *Griselinia littoralis Variegata*. When you only have an area about four feet long, nine inches wide and 18 inches deep, open to the force of chilly, high winds, pecked over by sparrows and pigeons, and even used by the Barbican Mallards to nest in, it is an achievement to grow anything at all.

Francesca Greenoak

CLARE ROBERTS



Barbican window box looking out on St Paul's in the City

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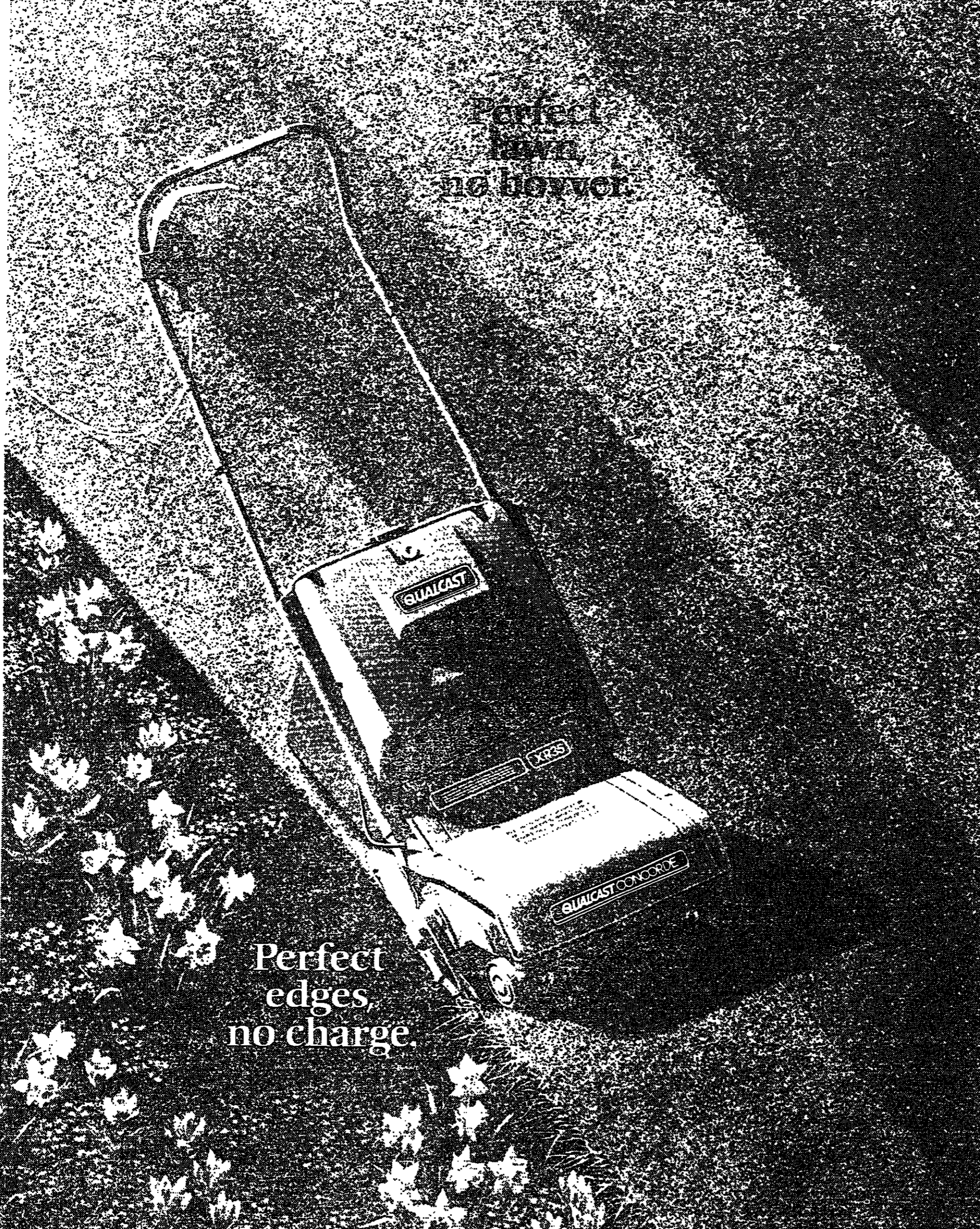
to pass through, producing healthy plants, whilst weed growth is suppressed. Since using Plantex I can now sit back and enjoy my leisure time.

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NEWLINES

It is garden festival time in Glasgow, beginning April 28 on an exciting dockside site flanking the south bank of the Clyde.

Arranged into somewhat inscrutable themes, the garden exhibits include high-tech demonstration plots, heritage gardens, the voguish plant-mans' and planthunters' gardens, as well as "third world initiatives", water displays and "gardens of peace".

Day tickets for the festival £5, children £2.50 (£4 concessionary rate). May be bought at the gate or ordered

in advance by telephone 041 429 8855 (or Freefone Garden Festival, in Scotland), credit cards accepted.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Always handle seedlings by their leaves (not the delicate stems) when pricking out.
- Plant maincrop potatoes this week.
- Make sure greenhouse and indoor plants have adequate water and ventilation.
- Cut holly, box and yew, using secateurs rather than shears.
- Sow courgettes, outdoor cucumbers, French beans and pumpkins in small pots inside or in warm soil under chokes.

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Middle age spread

To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day, Frances Bissell looks back to medieval England

When I was looking at some medieval English recipes to see what could be adapted to the modern kitchen, I was struck, not by their strangeness but their familiarity.

Mussels cooked in beer and herbs was a delicious variant of *moules marinières*. Rabbit with mustard was almost identical to the contemporary *lapin à la moutarde*. One of my favourite recipes was a Brie tart. It was flavoured with saffron which was grown on a commercial scale in Britain in the middle ages around Saffron Walden and sweetened with honey which was more commonly used than sugar.

Although it is generally held that the Brie we know today is a relative newcomer and that the Brie of the middle ages was more than likely a soft, curd-type cheese, out of curiosity I used Brie in my recipe. It gives it a slightly more unusual flavour than using curd cheese alone, but it should not be a Brie that has reached the very runny, pungent stage. I recommend it as an alternative to the modern cheese cake, a good way to finish off a Sunday lunch perhaps, after a traditional roast.

I was offered a traditional roast to try a few weeks ago, a piece of sirloin on the bone which I duly roasted and found to be very good. It was the sort of beef that you would expect from a good butcher where the beef has been hung long enough for it to develop a good flavour and texture. It came not from a butcher, however, but from one of the high street multiples who were introducing it as an entirely new product. Were they not giving us traditional beef?

It is all too easy to be seduced by those joints of lean beef in the butcher's window or on the supermarket shelf. Small, neat, without a bone and thus easy to carve, tied around with a thin lay of fat for basting. Tasty, lean meat it is true, but these joints come from the hardworking leg muscles which is why they are lean.

These cuts are better pot roasted or braised, covered and cooked in a slow oven with liquid and vegetables to taste and flavour. For a tender

roasting joint, you should choose one from the parts of the animal that have had to do the least work. Look for sirloin, fillet or ribs. All very appropriate for St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday. You do not need me to tell you how to roast beef, but you will, I hope, enjoy my recipe for braised beef.

But first, before the beef, here is a recipe for a very good warm salad. I have always liked cod's roe and bacon for breakfast, and this recipe developed from finding an extra piece of cod's roe in the refrigerator at the same time as some leftover skate. I decided that it was even better made with freshly cooked warm skate.

Remove the bacon rind and cut the bacon into matchsticks. Fry them until the fat runs, then remove with a slotted spoon, leaving the bacon fat in the frying pan. Slice the cod's roe and fry it in the bacon fat. Meanwhile, poach or steam the skate until just cooked but not overcooked. The timing will depend on the thickness of the fish. When cooked put it to one side until just cool enough to handle.

Divide the salad leaves and arrange on dinner plates. Arrange the slices of cod's roe on top and then the warm skate which you remove in shreds from the cartilage. Put the olive oil in

the pan with the remaining bacon fat and the pieces of bacon. When the pan is sizzling, add the vinegar and capers and season lightly. Pour the hot dressing over the salad and serve immediately.

My next dish, spiced topside braised in cider, is for a large gathering, unless you want a lot of leftovers. These though are delicious in sandwiches, salads or as potted beef. It is also a good-tempered dish and can be left for several hours to cook in a slow oven. Start the preparation at least the day before and marinate the beef overnight. It can marinate for up to 72 hours. This is not unlike the traditional German *saubraten*.

Place the vinegar, cider, vegetables, bay leaves, cinnamon, cloves, allspice, peppercorns and mace in a saucepan, bring them to the boil and pour them over the meat. Cool quickly, then cover and refrigerate for up to 72 hours, turning the meat occasionally.

When ready to cook the meat, choose a casserole only slightly bigger than the joint. Remove the meat from the marinade, dry it all over, and heat the oil in a frying pan or in the casserole if it is flame-proof. When the oil is hot, sear the meat all over until browned. Put it into the casserole, and add about half the marinade and vegetables.

Cover and cook in a slow oven, gas mark 3 to 4, 160/180°C, 325/350°F, for 3½ hours. Check the liquid level after a couple of hours and add more of the marinade and vegetables if you wish, topping up with cider as necessary.

When the meat is cooked, lift out of the casserole, transfer it to a carving dish and keep it warm. Pour the pan juices and any remaining marinade and vegetables into a saucepan for a few minutes while you prepare a ginger *beurre manié* by mixing the flour, softened butter and the remaining teaspoon of ginger together. Drop bit by bit into the saucepan, stir and cook for a further 10 minutes. Slice the meat and strain the sauce over it or into a sauceboat to hand round separately.

In the following recipe, the quantities can be multiplied or divided according to how much beef you have. A food processor is very useful particularly for large quantities.

Trim and wipe the piece of beef. Rub it all over with the salt, the cardamom and 1 teaspoon of the ginger, and place it in a large bowl.

Soak the saffron threads for 20 minutes in a tablespoon of hot water. Roll out the pastry and line a 10 inch/25cm rimmed pie plate. Use the trimmings to decorate the rim with pastry leaves or a plait.

Put the curd cheese in a bowl, remove the rind from the Brie and mix thoroughly with the curd cheese. Melt the honey with two tablespoons water. Mix the honey and saffron liquid with the cheese and beat in the two eggs. Pour the mixture carefully into the pie dish and bake in a preheated oven at gas mark 5, 190°C/375°F, for 15 minutes, then turn it down to gas mark 3, 170°C/325°F, for a further 20 minutes or so. Serve warm or cold.

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EATING OUT



noodles in the Alsatian manner

French cuisine with a Bristol cream topping

The Barbizon is situated in what appears to be a much more propitious and enviable part of Bristol than is the excellent Les Semailles, which I wrote about three weeks ago.

Its premises are certainly much finer. It occupies the basement of the former Commercial Rooms, a late Georgian club room coffee house designed in the Greek Revival manner. It was converted four years ago by Slavik, the Parisian restaurant design practice, and is their only work in this country.

The night I ate there no other table was taken. This was astonishing for though it is not the gastronomic equal of the hardly better frequented Les Semailles, it is unquestionably a fine establishment. Again, one wonders whether it is peddling the wrong ambience in a city that is inclined to dress down when it goes out.

The cooking teters between the rich and the very rich - the kitchen is notably mushy of cream. Langoustines and sweetbreads are served together as at Les Semailles. Who copies whom? Or is the idea carried in the Avon drizzle?

Here the treatment of the dish, which is anyway generously served, is hearty going on hefty: it gets a creamy shellfish reduction and a creamy meat sauce. Excellent marinated salmon (that is: not so long marinated that its flavour is lost) comes with a creamy horseradish moussé.

The vegetables include a creamy *turnip gratin*. Main courses tend towards the opulently bourgeois: fillet steak is served with both *Bearnaise* and *Bordelaise* sauces; a similarly massive, savoury, though boney, civet of hare comes with noodles in the Alsatian manner; salmon is sauced with sorrel in an unexceptionable version of a "new classic" combination, and is given a twist by the addition of fish fennel to the sauce.

Sweets are as copious and rich as all that has preceded them: a selection of sorbets in a baroque biscuit cap the slice of the Neapolitan cream, and a distinctly nightmarish of a *crème brûlée*. The cheeses are only marginally more modest.

After the West Jonathan Meades finds himself in the Gateway to the South

This is a lactic paradise; but not altogether a vinous one. The wine list takes a bit of negotiating because of its advertisement of bottles that are out of stock. Some of the wine glasses are marked World Wine Fair: the annual Bristolian bacchanal at which such glasses are given away. With a bottle of St Veran (cheap - but not as cheap as the glasses), a bottle of Chiroubles (ridiculously cheap) and a half of Sauternes, the bill for three was £93. Two will thus pay, say, £62 for a meal whose like is rarely encountered in Britain and increasingly seldom in France. The service is a masterpiece of the French aptitude for this trade.

In the days when Peter Sellers christened it Gateway to the South, it would have been unthinkable that Balham could ever provide a ready audience for a restaurant. But such is the case today. It is now regaining the smartness it possessed a century ago, when its great suburban villas were built.

Macnab's, set among the motorcycle showrooms and carpet-marts of the still doggedly proletarian high road, is typical of the places that have sprung up all over London in the wake of estate agents and skips. It is decoratively fairly austere; its predominant whiteness is relieved here and there by a standard issue "post modern" arch, by palms and by architectural priests on the walls.

Its service is well-mannered, well-spoken, reasonably professional. The cooking, when it doesn't attempt to over-reach itself, is pleasing. The front of the premises is a wine bar; the night I was there it was filled with 20-year-olds with loud voices and loud striped shirts.

The trouble with these outposts is that they are prone to cliquishness; they are the gentrifier's only refuge from

the real people, who hang out in the kebabs and tandoori tents.

This wine bar offers some Chinese snacks - wontons, spring rolls, bits of this and that in decent butter. This orientalism continues in a couple of the dishes on the restaurant menu, which borders on the slowly eclectic. Individual dishes tend also to be fairly flashily conceived, but in all save two instances the standard of execution was high.

The two things that went wrong were a veal steak, on which sat some sort of cheesy moussé flavoured with orange, and a sweet of white chocolate with a nifty tart sauce which was claimed to be apricot. The orange moussé was a rotten idea to begin with; the sweet was simply a case of a sauce being made without care or taste. Otherwise there is a sound starter of stuffed quail on a gamey, port sauce; another of salmon and sole with a dill sauce; a third of chicken liver put through a blender until it is the sort of babyfood that the catering trade calls a "parfait".

There are two impressive main courses: sautéed pheasant breast with a sauce pepped up with chocolate in the manner of Catalonia, Mexico, Italy et al; lamb with a restrained shallot sauce. Among the sweets are bananas roulade, and a pretty delicious rum and chocolate tart. The menu prose is unclear to the point where every dish requires the hesitant explanation of the waiter, who himself appears uncertain. The wine list is unambitious in length, but is soundly chosen.

This is a reasonably priced joint and one which ought to do well. It would be rash to suggest that it is worth making a trek from, say, Highgate, but the loud young of Clapham, Tooting, Wandsworth, Battersea and so on should take note that here is yet another place for them to exercise their brays in. About £46 for two.

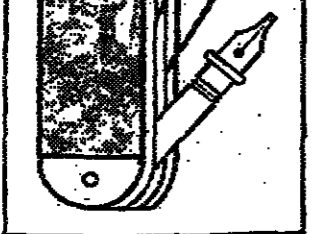
Barbizon: 43 Corn Street, Bristol (0272 22558), noon-2.30pm and 7.30-10.30pm Mon to Fri; 7.30-10.30pm Sat. Macnab's, 43 Balham High Road, London SW12 (01-875 5522), Mon-Sat, noon-9pm and 6-12pm; Sun, noon-2pm and 7-11pm.

DRINK

The new red baron?

Alexis Lichine's rumpled Russian face grimaced: "I've got to be there to cut my arms and legs off... that is what quality in Bordeaux is all about". The "there" is his Bordeaux fourth growth château, Prieuré-Lichine, and the figurative, albeit financially painful, process he describes is the *assemblage* of his 1987 vintage.

Lichine is one of the many Bordeaux proprietors likely to have suffered agonies over their various 1987 vats. It was ERIC BEAUMONT



wet, humid, and rot was rife in Bordeaux during the 1987 harvest. Whether Lichine's Bordeaux colleagues will be quite brave enough to demote 60 per cent of their ground *vin* to their second and lesser wines, as he did one year, is difficult to judge.

first growth friends. He was born in Moscow in 1913 into a wealthy white Russian banking family which fled to Paris via Siberia, Japan and America when he was two.

The Lichine family survived by running a tourist bus business. Such early exposure to the public no doubt helped to sharpen Lichine's natural talent for salesmanship, for he was soon working in the *International Herald Tribune's* Paris office as an advertising representative. Lichine's entry into the wine world came when the editor asked him to fill a few educational pages on French wines. "The best way to learn is to teach," he told me succinctly of this period.

The next step up on the Lichine wine ladder was to return to the United States in the late Thirties. His intriguing Russian past, informed French upbringing and reassuring American nationality, proved a powerful antidote to the influential dry lobby which existed there, even post Prohibition.

The dynamic, outspoken Lichine, blessed with dark handsome Russian looks and bags of glib charm, had a dramatic effect on the American palate. "I converted America to wines," is no idle Lichine boast.

En route, Lichine and Frank Schoonmaker clocked up an important California wine first by persuading West Coast producers to bottle varietal wines which they then sold under honest grape variety labels, rather than the usual French-inspired but California-made imitations of "Burgundy", "Chablis" and the

like, still available today, alas. The war halted Lichine's progress, but its end saw his headiest days, and a series of remarkable coups. The first was a book entitled *Wines of France*, published in 1951, the same year that he bought Chateau-Prieuré, a run down fourth growth in Margaux renamed Prieuré-Lichine, but much outshone by its illustrious neighbours. Not content with one Bordeaux property, he and a group of American financiers the following year purchased second growth Chateau Lascombes, also in Margaux. A shipping company was the next ob-

vious move, and soon chateau-bottled wines bearing the labels Alexis Lichine and Company were making their way to the US, Britain and elsewhere (sadly this firm and Chateau Lascombes now have nothing to do with Lichine).

Burgundy also experienced the formidable Lichine touch; having purchased two small vineyards there he was convinced that estate bottled rather than merchant bottled (and often bungled) Burgundy was the quality route to take. He also persuaded the deeply-conservative Burgundy growers that his ambient bottling line was their salvation.

Jane MacQuitty

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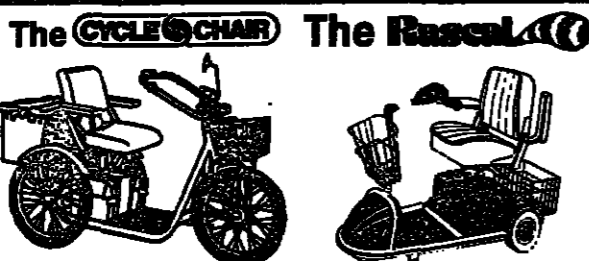
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Sweepers you can't beat

GOBLIN RIO GRANDE 1000 Price: £59.95 Rating: ★★☆☆

Small, cylinder cleaner which proved light and easy to carry and offered strong suction. It is slim enough to stand easily on stairs. The attachments fitted well with good length poles and an adequate 14R 4in flex. Large foot pedal on/off switch, and a 4 1/2 litre dust box (so there is no need to buy expensive dust bags). One drawback is its very noisy performance. We felt it would be useful in small flats, and found it surprisingly powerful for its size. It could benefit from a brush attachment. Clear, concise instruction book.

PANASONIC MC-E43, Price: £109.95 Rating: ★★★★★

Upright cleaner, easy to carry around. Unusually long flex (24ft). Good range of attachments, stored in the cleaner's body, although we thought extension pole was a little short. Excellent performance over large areas. Good manual control for power boosting, and an acceptably low-pitched tone. Indicates when dust bag is full. Reusable dust bag is a good idea but messy in practice. Floating head adjusts automatically to different heights of carpet pile. Edge-cleaning brushes at the ends of the beater bars for cleaning right up to skirting boards.

ROWENTA RU44 Price: £82.49 Rating: ★★☆☆

Sturdy 20-litre capacity wet-and-dry cleaner which comes with two sets of tools: one for light industrial waste and garden leaves, one for household cleaning. It is a very powerful cleaner which needed careful handling on carpets and lino tended to lift. In its wet mode, an automatic cut-out device prevents the cleaner overflowing when unblocking sinks or drains. Fairly easy to move on five castor wheels but rather noisy. Instructions quite clear. Good value for money.

Modern vacuum cleaners do more than suck dust from dirty carpets. Some models will even mop up pools of water or unblock a sink. Traditional upright cleaners deal speedily with large areas of carpet or hard floor surfaces like vinyl. Typical features include adjustments for different heights of carpet pile, filters to stop dust escaping from the bag, indicators that warn when bags are nearly full, and automatic cord rewind.

Cylinder cleaners are useful in awkward corners, since the cleaning head operates at a distance from the body. Wet-and-dry cleaners can be used both for household cleaning and - depending on power levels - for cleaning up miscellaneous rubbish such as wood shavings, wallpaper strippings and garden leaves, also for mopping up pools of water and unblocking sinks.

We tested six models with the help of Candy Bowman, who runs a domestic help agency for Londoners called Home Matters. Here are the results.

Nicole Swengley CHARLES MULLIGAN



The vac pack: Home Matters cleaners with (back, left to right) the Goblin Rio Grande 1000, Panasonic, Rowenta, Philips, and (front, left to right) Electrolux, Hoover Aquatronic 1100

ELECTROLUX 612 Price: £130 Rating: ★★☆☆

Lightweight, powerful upright cleaner with an acceptable, fairly low-pitched noise level. We felt it would suit high-quality carpets where the four manual settings for different heights of carpet pile could be used. Motor speed can be adjusted to suit specific tasks. We also liked the brush attachment and dust bag indicator which warned when the re-usable dust bag needed emptying. As well as getting right to the skirting board, the machine levelled out underneath furniture, although we did find that the 19 1/2in flex was a little short.

HOOVER AQUATRONIC 1100 Price: £229.99 Rating: ★★☆☆

Powerful wet-and-dry suction cleaner which can shampoo carpets, remove liquids from the floor, and unblock sinks and drains. Looks smart, but is bulky and difficult to manoeuvre. Tools stored inside the cleaner. Indicator warns when re-usable bag needs emptying. Four motor speeds. Difficult to assemble, as instructions were not very clear. Very noisy and quite hard work, but performed well on a heavily-soiled carpet. Tank holds only six litres, so needs refilling for a large area. Good for a large family with frequently-cleaned carpets.

PHILIPS HR6520 Price: £95.99 Rating: ★☆☆☆

Quiet and very powerful cylinder cleaner. Solidly made and not too heavy, although it might get tiring moving it around a large house with lots of stairs. 20ft flex, plus a long extension pole. It performed very effectively, but we found it quite complicated to operate. It was as well that, unlike most of the others, the manual had pictorial as well as written instructions.

Home Matters is based at 23a Leconfield Road, London N5 2RX (01-359 7339).

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OUT AND ABOUT

مكازم الأصيل

A village in memoriam

A memorial chapel quite unlike any other building in England, an extraordinary art gallery, and a uniquely interesting Norman church - the village of Compton in Surrey has all of these, and more.

Nigel Andrew visits Compton, shrine to a Victorian painter, George Watts



Widow's work: The Watts chapel, built by the painter's wife in the chance complete with a 'yard' full of Norman wood.

Up the road is the hillside churchyard, the setting for the Watts Chapel, one of the most splendid buildings I have ever seen.

The chapel was built to his memory by his widow, a woman of formidable dedication, who designed the whole thing herself, along with the nearby Cloister, organized the villagers into a Potters Art Guild, found suitable clays on the estate, and even modelled much of the decoration.

Every inch of every surface is encrusted with gesso, lavishly decorated with long trails of stylized foliage, elongated figures, pictorial vignettes and other-worldly faces, of which some look downward in sympathy while others look upward in hope.

There are a great many more such titles - 'Love and Death', 'The Spirit of Christianity', 'Love Steering the Boat of Humanity' - in the Watts Gallery itself.

However, Watts in bulk is certainly impressive; there are many unexpected pleasures to be found, particularly among the earlier works.

The remarkable Sculpture Gallery is being restored, but you may be able to have a look inside. Here, amid a surreal

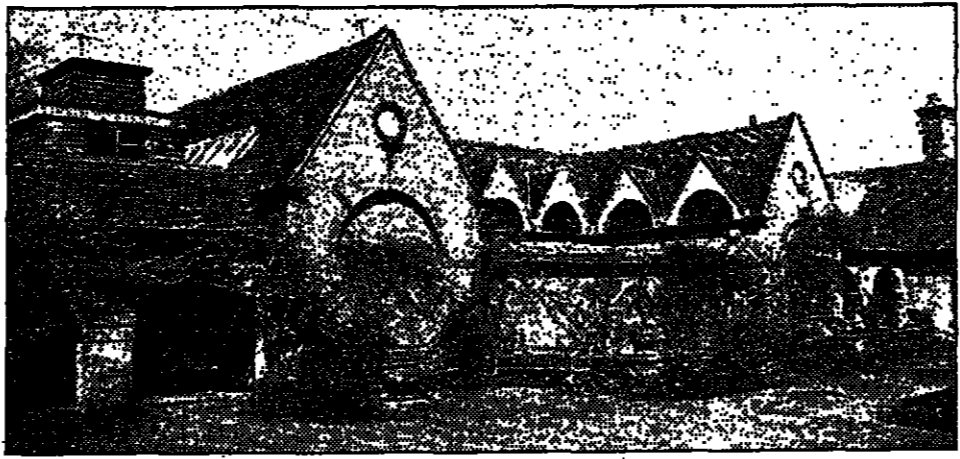
overwhelm rather than enlighten. The one still point in the decorative riot is a small Watts painting over the altar, 'The All-Rewarding'.

It was while working on this that he caught the cold that developed into pneumonia and killed him, a very grand old man of English art.

The Watts Gallery, Compton, near Guildford, is open daily, except Thursdays, 10am to 11am-1pm Wed and Sat. Admission free. No dogs.



In loving memory: sculpture from the Watts gallery (below)



Aim a boot at the tumbling falls

TORRIDON Slieve north west Scotland Distance: 15 miles



Slieve. It sounds like a good 10-year-old malt and indeed, has a similar subtlety. The face it presents across Loch Maree invites analogy with supermarket brands, all fire and no violence, but closer inspection confirms its loftier liaisons.

First-rate six-mile stroll, and the glen path (nine miles round there and back from Kinlochewe) is scarcely more difficult.

The best route up, strikes just west of north at about 45 degrees to the contours to the rim of Coire an Tuill Bhain, then by its eponymous Sgurr to the summit.

This is the safest descent, alternatives being via Coire na Slegheich or (trickier) Sgurr Dubh. The Tuill Bhain ascent is preferred for the sudden revelation of the northward view toward An Teallach.

Iain Liddell

Much ado about Will

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: Annual event attended by many visitors from abroad, including ambassadors and high commissioners from all over the world.

GARDEN HISTORY MUSEUM SPRING FAIR: Penelope Hobhouse opens this fair at which many specialists will exhibit, including the National Council for Conservation of Plants and Gardens.

OUTINGS

SE1 (01-261 1891 for further information). Tomorrow 1am-4.30pm, admission 50p.

BOATYARD NATIONAL OPEN DAYS: 52 boat yards on British waterways will be open tomorrow - most from 10am to 5pm - providing visitors with an opportunity to inspect boats and, at some, take short trips.

ESSEX GARDEN OPEN DAY: Lovely gardens surrounding 17th century house with many

spring flowers and a chain of lakes. The Manor House, Little Easton, near Dunmow, Essex. Tomorrow 2-6pm, admission Adult £1, Child 50p. Proceeds to charity.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND GRAND PLANT SALE: All types of house and garden plants at bargain prices, plus used book and home produce stalls. Proceeds to Worldwide Plant and Animal Conservation. Lightfoot Hall, Kings College, Manresa Road, London SW3. Today 10am-5pm.

Judy Froshaug

Paris trip winners

In our competition featuring general knowledge questions about Paris, the winners, who will each have a weekend for two in the French capital and a copy of The Times Bartholomew Guide to Paris, are Mrs C. Constable of Worthing and Mr Alan McCook of Doncaster.

Cross: Miss E. Shaw of Bath; Mrs Michelle Field of London SW17; and Mr Peter Cotthart of Essex. The answers: 1. St Denis 2. The square sparris in front of Notre Dame Cathedral 3. Marie de Medici 4. Champs de Mars 5. The Church of Dome at Les Invalides 6. Place de la Concorde 7. The Pont Neuf 8. The Georges Pompidou Centre

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Trial by reporter

TELEVISION

We gentle persons of the Press are more ready, it seems, than our television counterparts to name the guilty men. The second programme in the BBC2 series *Secret Services* followed a *Sunday Mirror* investigative journalist, Steve Bailey, as he tracked down a dastardly bounder of a Wimbledon umpire, who had been selling centre court tickets at a substantial profit.

Although the paper printed the story last year, we were not given his name during the programme. We heard his bugged bluster as he was tenderly led into the multi-media trap but when he came in front of the candid television camera his face instantly became an indecipherable mosaic of computer graphics.

Legal reasons may have necessitated this facelift, if arty, anonymity, but there was also aesthetic and moral justification for it. Though the documentary boasted a lyrical sax sound-track and close-ups of whirly fans and hidden microphones worthy of a thriller about some major heist, it exemplified the comic persistence of pathetically petty corruption in British public life.

Our Mr X was an umpire of 25 years' standing, a Conservative councillor and the chairman of a health authority, who risked his whole well-rewarded career for a quick £2,000. He may have broken Wimbledon's and gentlemen's rules, but not, I think, the laws of the land; and Bailey had "encouraged" a tout to name the guilty umpire rather than be the subject himself of a *Mirror* article. When the umpire learnt his game was up, he lamely offered a Thatcherite defence of market forces.

If it is difficult to be rumbled in good taste, it is impossible, according to Andy Warhol's former lawyer-business manager, Fred Hughes, to die in it. Hughes was delightedly appearing on BBC2 in *Review's* intriguing film about Warhol's vast collection of artefacts, prior to the mammoth sale of them in New York. Connoisseurs mused and gazed over the values of jewels and junk but the lawyer's pearls stole the show.

Andrew Hislop

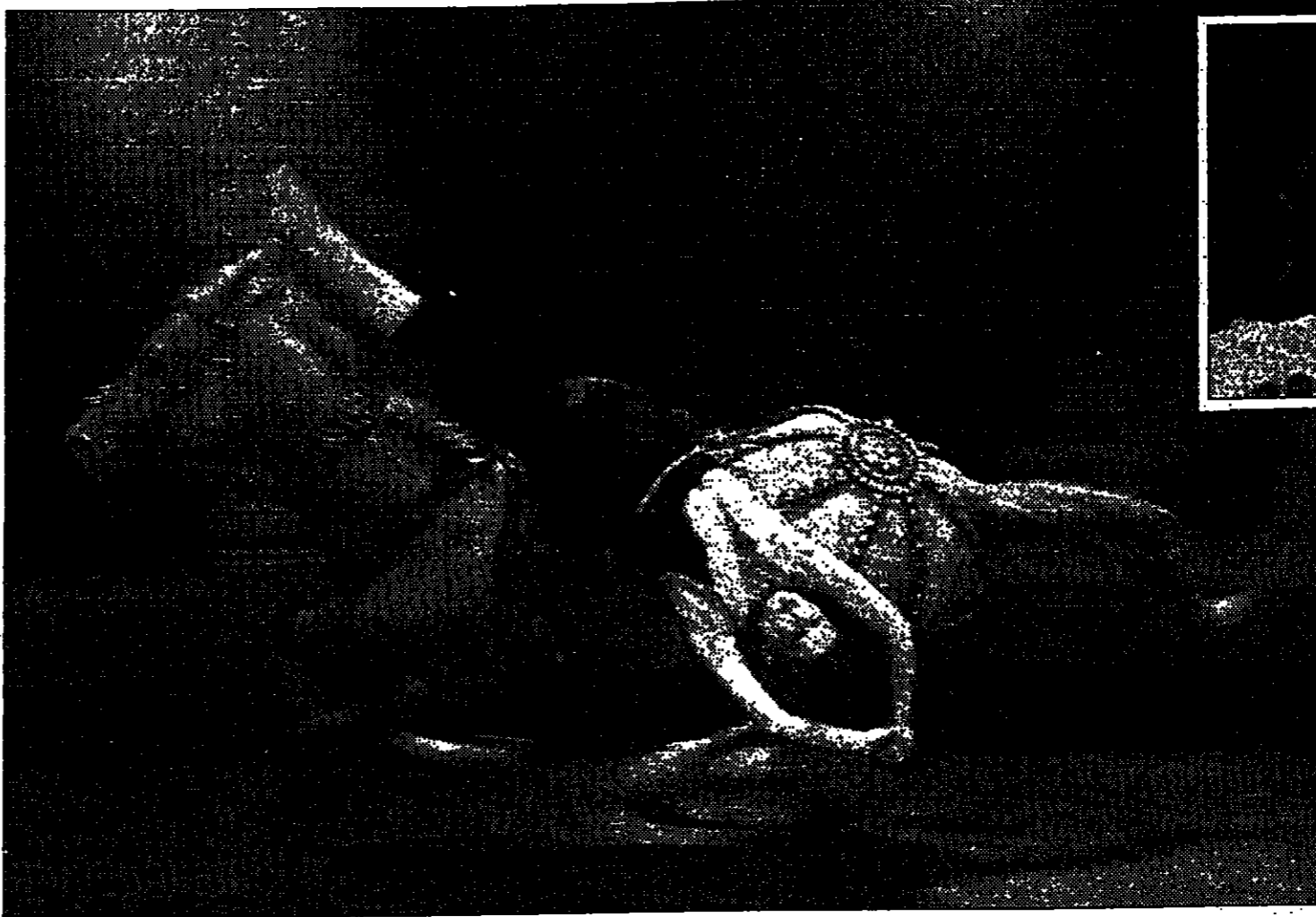
The Bolshoi of the Big Top

Richard Morrison on the Moscow State Circus, which this week begins a summer tour of Britain

As a celebration of human physique, co-ordination and nerve, the £6 million show which arrives in Britain this week probably has few equals. It is called the Moscow State Circus, but in fact it has been assembled by British impresarios of the ambitious Entertainment Corporation, who journeyed round the Soviet Union, selecting a dozen of the best acts from the enormous resources of *Soyuz Goszirk*, Union of Soviet Circuses.

Any resemblance between this Olympian display and the tacky parades of butter-fingered jugglers and faked tightrope acts which sometimes pass for circuses on waste-ground outside British towns is liable to be exceedingly slight (even though Britain invented the modern circus about 200 years ago, when an entrepreneurial Light Dragon discovered there was money to be made from standing on a galloping horse).

Yet the overriding impression



Horsemanship: Annayev, of the Cossack Riding Troupe, shows off his skill. It is one of the few animal acts at the Moscow State Circus.

when they perform is not one of clockwork precision, but of breathtaking pace, improvisational exuberance and a high risk element. That was evident even in the dreary environment of Ryazan, a grey town 150 miles outside Moscow where the elite troupe earmarked for British consumption gathered to put the show together last month.

What is in that show? Most spectacularly, a thrilling high-wire act. Druzhin is a veteran (about 40) who walks the wire without safety net or harness. On his head he balances a pole, and on top of that his wife perches on one pointed foot. That is the easy bit. Then they begin to ascend a steeply sloping wire into the roof. The wire begins to shake, the pair slip back time and again, but eventually reach the top. "The presence of Western journalists made the wire wet," explains Druzhin — an inscrutable remark, until one realizes that the performers were drenched in the perspiration of fear and determination.

The circus is stuffed with exceptional gymnasts: the Garamovs, a Leningrad family who perform on trapeze with classical precision; the Shatins, who do the same sort of thing for laughs; and the Kaminskys, including a girl who does improbable back-somersaults on a three-inch-wide bender.

There are jugglers and trampolinists, too, and the unclassifiable Moscow Builders, whose "perch" routine, using eight men and two women, combines athleticism with some sly satirical digs at *perestroika*. Then there are the novelties. It would, of course, be a monstrous slur on the Russian people to describe these acts as the Soviet Union's answer to Paul Raymond, but they do always seem to involve economically-clad maidens doing interesting things with their torsos. The "snake girl of Lvov" walks on her hands while her legs are contorted backwards round her neck. Try it sometime.

Crowd: Anatoly Marchevsky, who has studied Benny Hill

(his father, inconspicuously, Agriculture Minister in Turkmenistan and his brother plays violin in the Ashkhabad Philharmonic), rejects accusations of cruelty in his training methods, with a little speech straight out of medieval Persia. "I treat horses like women. Some respond to caresses, some to a strong hand, but never cruelty. And I always have a carrot in my pocket."

The star of this Big Top, however, is the clown Anatoly Marchevsky, widely regarded as heir apparent to Oleg Popov. Marchevsky is young, fanatically perfectionist, not especially poised for modesty or a sense of humor outside the ring, and very prickly about comparisons between himself and the legendary Popov. Yet to watch his act on *Ohello* reduce crowds of Ryazan children to hysterical giggles is to see a great circus clown in his prime.

He is unlikely to do that particular routine in Britain; perhaps judging that detailed allusions to Shakespeare would be quite beyond the average British audience. But we will see his delightful reworking of the Chaplin "park statue" sketch. What, incidentally, does he know of current British humour? "I have seen all of Benny Hill on video," he replies, alarmingly.

The Moscow State Circus opens in Battersea Park, London, next Saturday before visiting Norwich, Northampton, Birmingham, Nottingham, York, Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol and Bournemouth.

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OPERA
L'elisir d'amore
La Scala, Milan
Why does La Scala's new *Elisir d'amore* focus almost exclusively on Adina? The answer is threefold: the part is sung by Marie McLaughlin, the director is a woman, and Pavarotti is ill.
André Ruth Shanmah's production presents the bulk of the opera as Nemorino's dream, reducing him to a passive onlooker as Adina embarks on her voyage of emotional self-discovery. McLaughlin takes Adina very seriously, at times turning her into a proto-Violetta — her lighthearted attempts to dismiss Nemorino become increasingly tinged with doubt and anxiety in the face of his insistent sincerity. Her consummate acting and richly expressive singing are such that the music bears the unaccustomed weight with little strain, although the first night did not find her in best voice.
Pavarotti's replacement was the young Vincenzo La Scala, who has a modest, musically-deployed voice with a fine legato. However, his phrasing is not yet sufficiently imaginative to compensate for an essential lack of tonal variety.
Apart from the emphasis on Adina and the novelty of the dream the production is almost non-existent; the only sets are painted backcloths that tell the time of day.
The first-night Scala audience was on its worst behaviour, which means very silly indeed. By the end of the evening — liberally punctuated by audience participation — everyone except the tenor was deemed to have sinned. The conductor failed to appear, but the rest of the company was greeted with whistles, jeers, and catcalls.
Miss McLaughlin should not be discouraged by her Scala debut — Mirella Freni once had to heckle the hecklers from the stage before she could continue with an aria.
Nigel Jamieson

Very witty, dear boy
THEATRE
Easy Virtue
Garrick
The most likely explanation for the long neglect of this early Coward play is its large cast of 19, eight of whom appear only in the dance scene of the last act in gossip on the sidelines (where Coward, always the craftsman, gives each of them something useful to say) and to form an audience for the splendidly grand *dénouement*.
Somehow the cast managed to cram on to the King's Head stage (where this production by Tim Luscombe was warmly praised by Irving Wardle) but the environment is certainly classier at the Garrick.
The setting is the pannelled hall of Colonel Whittaker's home in Surrey. Nobody in real life now or ever sits on sofas in their hall to take afternoon tea, but it is for drawing-room comedy (never called hall comedy) the equivalent of Bruce's room of many doors.
On France Snyder's set are three ground-level doors and a soaring staircase, up which vindictive county females exit muttering and down which Larita, the woman with the past, makes her last entrance, wearing at least 15 necklaces, and half a dozen glittering bracelets on each forearm.
Coward uses the story of a woman in her thirties, just married to a handsome youth (John Michie) 10 years her junior, and meeting his family for the first time, to score points off hard hearts and blinkered complacency.
It is the women he has it in for. Larita's endlessly critical mother in law (Zena Walker) and the two smug daughters. "Don't give way, mother" bleats the elder one, a galling girl (Miranda Kings-

CONCERT
Philharmonia/Slatkin
Festival Hall
With Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1 and Brahms's First Symphony dominating the programme, it is a wonder that last night's concert did not start off yet another new South Bank series called Beginning Games. And it was quite some beginning in the whirlpool of Bertoz's *Le Carnaval romain* overture. Leonard Slatkin started as he meant to go on.
The Philharmonia is fast getting used to the idea of eating — or rather gobbling — out of his hand. In terms of sheer physical excitement, the process of bonding is a compelling one to watch.
It was very much at work in the opening tutti of the Beethoven. Slatkin has his string players poised, as it were, on tiptoe, leaning forward in energetically tapered phrases to meet the first brass affirmation.
When Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich entered, though, energy was immediately transformed into aggression. His reading of the first movement worked, if only because it was entirely consistent and brilliantly articulated. His approach to the last did not: the rhythmic virtuosity of the music was enervated by the "mere virtuosity of speed."
Bishop-Kovacevich and Slatkin are nicely matched. They think at the speed of light, delineate their purpose with teeth-gritted determination, and force their audience's attention as if their lives depended on it.
It is refreshing not to endure rubato at the crest of every phrase: it is momentarily thrilling to hurdle into a repeat with a piercingly metallic trumpet cut-off, and it does something rather interesting for the slow movement for its phrases to swell with as many hairpin crescendos as Mahler himself might have pencilled in.
But after a while the ear rebels. However hard-working the strings, however minutely concentrated the woodwind solos, there comes a point when syncope and sturdy, thick harmony begin to merge in the consciousness. When every detail is worked as hard as every other, as it was in the third movement's initially spirited intermezzo, momentum itself loses will.
Jeremy Kingston

Come and see Adeline at Christie's
VINCENT VAN GOGH'S portrait of Adeline Ravoux, painted in June 1890 a month before his death, will be on view at Christie's, King Street this Sunday (2 p.m. - 5 p.m.), Monday and Tuesday (9 a.m. - 4.45 p.m.).
Adeline Ravoux, who was thirteen at the time, was the daughter of the innkeeper at the auberge where he was staying in Auvers. That same month Van Gogh wrote to his brother Theo "I should like to paint portraits which would appear after a century to the people living then as apparitions."
Adeline Ravoux died in 1965 and was undoubtedly the last living soul to have vivid recollections of the artist.
The painting will be auctioned at Christie's, New York on Wednesday, May 11th. For further information please contact James Roundell at the address below.
CHRISTIE'S
8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1W 9QR. Tel: (01) 839 9060.

Man or mouse?
Treats Watermans
Christopher Hampton's comedy was given a rough ride when it first appeared at the Royal Court in 1976. Spectators (like me) who may then have missed the point are now invited to bracket it with *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* as parallel study of "sexual ascendancy" written as a mid-century counterpart to *A Doll's House*.
Mr Hampton set out with the idea that the Noras of real life were no better off than they had been in the 1870s, and "determined to write a play in which the heroine would slam the door and come back." The result, as I signally failed to recognize 12 years ago, is an early document of male feminism; which, like subsequent examples of that self-torturing genre, manages to vilify every man in sight without achieving any feminine insight.
The action of the piece is lapsed in reverse. At the beginning, Ann has got rid of her violently dominating lover (Dave) and installed the office bore (Patrick) in his place. Dave, a war reporter, allegedly camping out in the Savoy Hotel, comes storming back and renews the macho treatment to such effect that the finds she cannot live without him. You are invited to conclude that women are irresistibly drawn to virile bullies who knock them about.
Andrew Powrie's production (including two members of the *Liaisons* cast) includes some minor textual revisions and three performances that nail the characters even more firmly into stereotypes: Andrew Rattenbury's Dave as a figure of unrelieved menace; and Simon Mastaack's Patrick as an unresisting victim of embarrassment and panic. Of the three, Harriet Grasby as the stone-walling Ann, shows the most emotional variety.
Irving Wardle
Hilary Finch
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THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Capital costs

As the Government's hunt continues for a successor to Sir William Rees-Mogg as chairman of the Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly has a more immediate problem: where to find a director of its £23 million music department. It was announced earlier this year that the five-year contract of Richard Lawrence, the present director, was expiring and that he was leaving in May. I learn that the job was offered a fortnight ago to Tony Woodcock, general manager of St David's Hall in Cardiff. Embarrassingly he admits to having turned it down for purely financial reasons. "It broke my heart to say no. I went through the sums with an accountant, but in London even a one-bedroom house costs £100,000." Suddenly Lord Gowrie's claim that a chap cannot live in the capital on £33,000-a-year seems less outrageous. The job pays a maximum of £27,000.

Hold tight

After the triumph of The Mahabharata in Glasgow's former transport museum, I discover that secret negotiations are on to transfer there another Peter Brook production, The Cherry Orchard, next spring. The play, which recently won excellent notices at the Majestic in Brooklyn, stars Lydia Hunt, best known for The Year of Living Dangerously, and Brook's wife, Natasha Parry.

Sir Michael Tippett will be at Covent Garden on Friday for The Knot Garden to hear it performed as intended for the first time since he composed it in 1970. Both then and at its revival in 1972, no musician



Tippett and Edwards

could be found to master the complexities of the electric guitar part and it was played instead on keyboard. For next week, however, a guitarist has been found. He is Steve Smith, a Royal Northern College of Music contemporary of Sian Edwards, the Royal Opera's first ever woman conductor, who will be waving the baton on Friday.

Belloporto

In only its second year, Portobello Contemporary Art Festival has been renamed the Michael Peters Portobello Contemporary Art Festival. The reason is that Peters has stepped in as sponsor and donated the services of his design company. Sadly, the exhibition catalogue is littered with mistakes, including the transposition of two galleries' shows.

Allfree salute

The Armistice Festival, a celebration of artists killed in the Great War, has finally found a British painter to join the German impressionists in its forthcoming arts show at Oxford. Organiser Tim Cross has learned of Geoffrey S. Allfree, a watercolourist who became a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and was drowned at sea in 1918. Now Cross wants more details of Allfree.

Andrew Billen

REVIEW

The great escape



Sharon Gange

Doing Daily Battle, by Fatima Mernissi (The Women's Press, £5.95) Sequins for a Ragged Hen, by Amyrl Johnson (Virago, £4.95)

"No, I didn't do anything for eight years. I ate and slept, that is all. It was the slaves who did the housekeeping." This is life in the harem described by one of the women in Doing Daily Battle - Interviews with Moroccan Women. It comes as no surprise that Moroccan men traditionally expected their women to remain silent - their conversation can't have been up to much.

Fatima Mernissi's aim is to show that the women of Morocco do have a voice, and that the days of secluded harem idleness, where women's only contribution to the GNP was babies, are over. Most of the women that she interviews are earning a living, and often supporting their families as teachers, carpet weavers, factory workers.

Throughout the book Mernissi points out the irony of the fact that when the Moroccan nationalists succeeded in throwing out their colonial masters and establishing a new democratised, industrialised, educated Morocco, they left half the population out of it. They legislated as though their women were still veiled and secluded instead of being (as Mernissi puts it) "a race of giants doing daily battle against the destructive monsters of unemployment, poverty and degrading jokes".

The women's stories are ones of hardship and injustice, and often incredible determination and courage. There is the harrowing tale of Mariam, a young girl from an impoverished family who went into domestic service. She was rapidly deflowered, impregnated, and discarded by her employer.

The baby was stillborn (no doubt the result of the various folk-medicine abortion attempts). After giving birth in

secret she had to throw the small corpse into the river and begin work, scrubbing floors, at dawn the next day.

The most bizarre history is that of Habiba, who discovered her vocation as a mystic at the age of 50, and now makes a good living holding seances. Unlike most of the others, she has a successful marriage partnership, her husband even assisting her in her work.

Other marriages do not seem so satisfactory from the women's point of view. Arranged marriages, polygamy, child brides, and the fact that the husband has only to say "I repudiate you" over the breakfast table for a woman to find herself divorced and out on the street, contribute to this impression.

It should be pointed out that the insight into Moroccan society we are offered is not exactly bang-up-to-date. The book was originally published in France in 1984 but most of the interviews took place between 1973 and 1977, and so

"The women's stories are ones of hardship and injustice, and often incredible determination and courage"

take no account of the developments of the last 10 years.

The suspicion lurks in the reader's mind that perhaps this internationally renowned sociologist discovered a whole

pile of interviews left over from her research for UNESCO or whatever, and decided she could get a bit more mileage out of them. It does not devalue the interest of the historical record, but if you are going to read a book of interviews with Moroccan women you might at least feel that you are up-to-date with the subject at the end of it.

Sequins for a Ragged Hen offers an insight into a foreign culture of a very different nature. Amyrl Johnson was born in Trinidad and came to England when she was 11. A poet whose work has been previously published by Virago, this book is the record of a six-month trip to the Caribbean.

It is a search, not for her personal, individual roots in

Trinidad, but for a sort of collective cultural inheritance, where her people's history of exploitation and slavery and their present day struggle for wealth and independence find their place. A lot of partying goes on too.

The book is an odd mixture of styles - sometimes rather flatly and clumsily written, at others soaring off into rich poetic flights. These passages occasionally left me unsure of what exactly was going on, and the effect can be bathetic when applied to the more mundane events. However, when it works it is very powerful. And she has a wonderful ear for the musical flow of the local speech - makes you want to read the dialogue out loud.

Annabel Edwards

BRIDGE

Testing the tough

The "Reisinger", one of the only surviving Board-a-match team events, is the centre piece of the American Fall Nationals. The result of any hand is a win, a tie or a loss, irrespective of the size of the swing. Superficially it sounds silly, in practice, it leads to very subtle play.

Some years ago, the American Contract Bridge League announced that it intended to change the method of scoring to the popular Swiss format. For once, this was enough to overcome the apathy of top bridge players. Almost to a man they objected with such spirit that the League was persuaded to leave well alone.

The Reisinger is possibly the toughest event in the world. This year three of the 10 finalists contained players who have won the World Championship. Indeed, four of the American team which won in Ocho Rios last October had to be content with finishing equal sixth.

The convincing winners were: Zia Mahmood (Pakistan), Jaggy Shivasan (India), Billy Cohen (Canada), and Ron Smith (USA). This victory was especially sweet for Zia, who sees it as a reinforcement for his belief that bridge can play a significant role in breaking down political and racial barriers. "A Moslem playing with a Hindu and a black Christian playing with a white Jew. You couldn't find a greater ethnic pot pourri," he exclaimed.

This hand occurred in the key clash between Zia's team and a team of former world champions.

Reisinger Trophy

Board-a-match Game all Dealer South

Hand diagram showing cards for West and South.

What would you lead from the West hand? Zia selected ♠2, a typical thrust which found Soloway naturally played low from dummy and was doubtless delighted to win East's crafty ♠8 with his ♠J. Even better news was forthcoming: when he cashed the ♠A and East perforce dropped the ♠K, Soloway successfully played the ♠10 and played two more rounds of diamonds to establish the suit.

Zia won the fourth round of diamonds and quietly produced the ♠7. Put yourself in Soloway's shoes. What would you do, bearing in mind that overtricks are crucial in Board-a-match scoring? Soloway inserted dummy's ♠10. Shivasan won with the ♠Q and switched to a heart. Dummy was dead. The certain nine tricks available a few moments before melted into seven, as the defence enjoyed their tricks in hearts and clubs.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Flames of defeat

Jon Spielman had an heroic start in the Swift World Cup Tournament in Brussels. He leapt into an early lead and even inflicted a sharp defeat on the great Victor Korchnoi. Unfortunately, however, he faltered against the back marker Sax, from Hungary, and in the following round went down in flames to the former world champion Karpov, who thereupon seized the lead himself. Here is that fierce clash between Britain and Russia:

White: Anatoly Karpov, Black: Jon Spielman, Queen's Gambit Accepted.

Chess board diagram for the Karpov vs Spielman game.

In an earlier round Karpov had won against Timman with 6 Bd3.

Black's Knights are aggressively placed but in the final analysis they become exposed.

Chess board diagram for the Karpov vs Timman game.

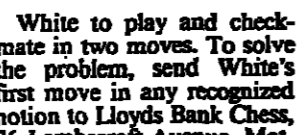
Further evidence of ambition on Spielman's part, but the pawn is also a potential weakness.

If 24... Nd5 25 Qx04 Nf4 26 Qf1 and White beats off the attack.

Black's pieces are in a complete tangle and this twist of the knife wins a piece.

Chess board diagram for the Karpov vs Timman game.

The first problem in the Lloyds Bank British Problem Solving Championship is as follows:



White to play and checkmate in two moves. To solve the problem, send White's first move in any recognized notation to Lloyds Bank Chess, 76 Lambcroft Avenue, Mittingham, London, SE9 4PB, marking your solution The Times.

Raymond Keene

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

- FICTION: The Dragon's Head, The Miller's Chained Lives, & The Green Man Revisited (Oxford, £3.95) Four volumes of classic English short stories from Evelyn Waugh to Ruth Praver Jhabvala. Of the Farm, by John Updike (Andre Deutsch, £4.95) Son brings new wife and stepson to visit widowed mother living alone on farm. One Father, by Bernice Rubens (Abacus, £3.99) Intrepid professional woman explorer meets God in the desert: is it a mirage? NON-FICTION: Byron, by Frederic Raphael (Cardinal, £4.99) Handsome new paperback reprint launches with this for bicentenary, & Land of Lost Content, the Ludlits Revolt 1812, by Robert Reid, T.S. Eliot, by Peter Ackroyd, Victorian Values, by James Walvin. Destined to be Wives, by Barbara Caine (Oxford, £5.95) The lives of Beatrice Webb and her sisters, the Potters, fascinating social history of the lives and problems of clever women of their class in Victorian and Edwardian England. The Singing Game, by Iona & Peter Opie (Oxford, £5.95) The rich folk history of "Ring a Ring o' Roses" etc.

Fifties favourites

JAZZ RECORDS

Shorty Rogers Short Stops (FCA Bluebird NL 85917, 2 discs) Gerry Mulligan/Shelly Manne/Art Farmer The Jazz Combo from I Want to Live! (Affinity AFF 188) Lee Konitz (Swingtime ST 1028) Chet Baker in Paris 1955-1956 (Fresh Sound FSR-1/2, 2 CDs) West Coast jazz was made by young men basking in the post-war mood of optimism and affluence, and it is the music's inherent good nature and blithe innocence that makes it sound so appealing in a rather different world 35 years later.

Shorty Rogers's Short Stops is a definitive anthology of work by the definitive West Coast bandleader. These 32 tracks, now digitally remastered, were recorded in 1953 and 1954, the ensembles varying from the nine-piece group called the Giants to the 18 men (plus overdubbed Harry-Davidson) of the four items from the Wild Ones soundtrack. Well known titles include "Short Stop", "Infinity Parade" and "Sweetheart of Sigma Five", while an entire album's worth of material, necessarily omitted from the single CD version of this 2-LP vinyl set, constitutes a delightfully relaxed homage

Jazzed-up junk

ROCK RECORDS

Thomas Dolby: Aliens Ate My Buick (Manhattan MTL 1020) Ziggy Marley And The Melody Makers: Conscious Party (Virgin V2506) Aliens Ate My Buick is only the third album Thomas Dolby has released in a sporadic and unpredictable solo career spanning seven years. Dolby has got his head down with a "real" five-piece backing band and sling a variety of urbane musical styles and penetrating lyrics around the loosely structured theme of Americas junk culture.

His feelings towards this subject are ambivalent. "The Ability to Swing" and "The Key to Her Ferrari", with their jaunty walking bass lines, are both derived from big band, movie-jazz soundtrack styles, although neither approaches the loose warmth of 1960s jazz. The failed single, "Airhead", is an amusing observation of the Californian bimbo syndrome. Wrapped around a sophisticated white funk beat, it is the most savage put-down of a female type since the Stones' "Sweet Girl" though with a typically 'Eighties' escape clause at the end, when he dutifully explains that "it was men who made her that way".

Richard Williams

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1547

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, April 28. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 30

- ACROSS: 1 Extra deciding race (6) 4 Contract section (6) 7 Glance (4) 8 Vease, amorphous (8) 9 Solway-Tyne defance (8,4) 10 Common (6) 16 Strained pudding (6) 17 Lord Haw-Haw (7,5) 23 Ahead of the times (8) 24 Sullen (4) 25 Scope (6) 26 Elegant (6) DOWN: 1 Wife of Boaz (4) 2 Potless example (9) 3 Spore plants (5) 4 Ship's room (5) 5 Glowing (5) 6 Froed with single ear (5) 10 Synagogue leader (5) 11 Begin working (3,2) 12 Fearless (9) 13 Suggestive look (4) 14 Victim (4) 15 Numerical scale (5) 19 Go (5) 20 Square-ended cravat (5) 21 Disappointed (5) 22 SE Paris airport (4) SOLUTION TO NO 1541 (last Saturday's Prize Concise) ACROSS: 1 Mobbled 4 System 7 Dots 8 Leftover 9 On the warpath 15 Alzavie 16 Bottle 17 Felicitation 23 Asbestos 24 Soen 25 Meizer 26 Asses DOWN: 1 Mods 2 Botanical 3 Delve 4 Sofa 5 Scept 6 Eject 10 Havoc 11 Root 12 Astrodom 13 Hood 14 Wait 18 Ezzac 19 Ideal 20 Inter 21 Aisha 22 Oms

SOLUTION TO NO 1546 ACROSS: 1 Mildew 4 Harass 7 Sams 8 Boatman 9 Tittark 11 Leech 12 Escarpment 13 Cycle 16 Wayside 20 Acid rain 21 Tart 22 Eleven 23 Speedo DOWN: 1 Murette 2 Limit 3 Weber 4 Hail 5 Amateur 6 Sash 7 Begs 8 Mace 11 Loony 13 Cosine 14 Maestro 15 Crave 17 Aunt 18 Inane 19 Pawn The winners of prize concise No 1541 are: P.H. Milton, The Causeway, Carshalton, Surrey; and C.B. Holman, London Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

Jumbo Crossword winners

Large crossword puzzle grid with words filled in, including 'TOBMAN', 'ISRAELI', 'SPECTACULAR', 'INSTANT', 'POPULIST', 'HARDTOP', 'SHAREHOLDER', 'EPHEROIDS', 'RATIOCINATIVE', 'WHILETHEREISLIFE', 'THEREISHOPE'.

This is the solution to The Times Easter Jumbo Crossword competition published on April 2. The five winners of who each receive a £500, are Mrs J. A. Athanas, Middleton Lane, Middleton St George, Darlington, County Durham; Geoffrey Chadwick, Oakfield Court, Parsloes Road, South Crofton, Surrey; Mrs A. Harding, Westover Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol; Mrs J.L. Griffiths, Willeby Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham; and Mrs N. Simons, Mona Street, Amjwch, Anglesey, Gwynedd. The next jumbo crossword competition will be published next Saturday.

Karajan's vintage collection

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Many peaks have become visible in the mass of material reissued this month, mainly from Decca, DG and EMI, to celebrate Karajan's 80th birthday. Few are higher, in opera terms, than the period in the mid Fifties with the Philharmonia, under Walter Felsenberg, for EMI. The newly reprocessed sets from that company should be snapped up.

Legge could be as autocratic as Karajan himself when he wished. He was rare among Englishmen at the time in knowing just who was in the ascendant among the European opera houses and this made him a master of casting. Take, for example, Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos, made in 1954. It was natural that Schwarzkopf should take the title role - and she still sounds radiant; Schock, an underrated tenor in this country, is a better Bacchus than the Americans who succeeded him in this role; Siefried's Kompanis has never been surpassed on record. The sound is less satisfactory than on many of the other reissues, with the Philharmonia too backward. But this remains a supreme example of the Legge-Karajan art. So too does Hansel and Gretel, recorded a year earlier at the same Kingsway Hall. The fluency and lightness of Schwarzkopf and the Grümmer as the brother and sister contrast strongly with the

CLASSICAL RECORDS

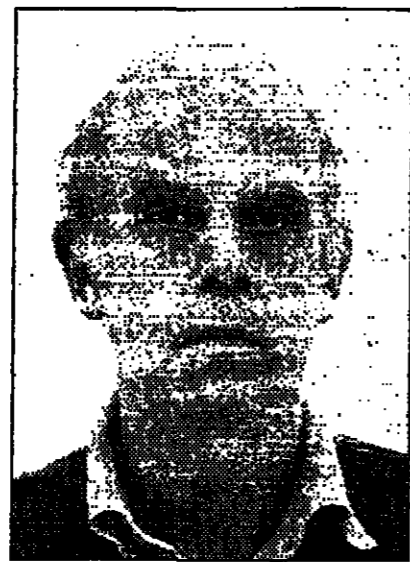
Ariadne auf Naxos (CMS 7 69296 2) Hansel und Gretel (CMS 7 69293 2) Falstaff (CDS 749668 2) Don Carlos (CMS 7 69304 2) riper performances from the adults led by Josef Mergenich's grumpy Father. Karajan excels in Humperdinck's heavy orchestration and this is an opera one longs to hear him do in theatre. Both these sets come at mid-price and so are a bargain. For unexplained reasons Falstaff from 1956 remains at full price. It has long been fashionable in Britain to decry Karajan's approach to Verdi's final opera, so maybe EMI are throwing down a double challenge. But this set has been too much maligned.

John Higgins

COLEFAX AND FOWLER HALF PRICE SALE Thursday 21st-Saturday 23rd April 10.00am-5.00pm 307 Merton Road London SW18 Exclusive chintzes, upholstery fabrics, wallpapers and accessories all at half price. Good parking facilities



FLO'S SHOW: Florenz Ziegfeld Jr (1867-1932), the American showman and theatrical producer whose Broadway follies made him a byword for extravagance, is the subject of a new musical show, Ziegfeld, now previewing. Harold Fielding has engaged Joe Layton as director and choreographer. Len Cariou as Mr Z, and Ned Sherrin and Alistair Beaton to provide the book. Theoni V. Aldredge's costumes have been consistently stopping the show at previews. London Palladium (01-437 7373). Opens Tuesday.



SOFT OPTION: Claes Oldenburg is the archetypal dotty Pop artist. He is famous for foam-filled cloth sculptures such as giant typewriters, ash-trays and toilets, and his celebrated collaged image of Piccadilly Circus replaces Eros with a cluster of ICBM lipsticks. An exhibition, the first in this country since his retrospective at the Tate Gallery 17 years ago, is being held in Leeds, featuring all aspects of his work. "A Bottle of Notes" and "Some Voyages" is at Leeds City Art Gallery (0532-462451). From Wed.



WIDE RANGING: Anne Howells has tackled most of the mezzo-soprano repertory, from Mozart to contemporary opera, since her Covent Garden debut just over 20 years ago. On Friday she sings Thea, the wife of a wealthy engineer, in Nicholas Hytner's new production of The Knot Garden, by Sir Michael Tippett. Thereafter it is back to Mozart and, rather more surprisingly, Despin in Così fan tutte in new productions both in the Royal Opera House and in Los Angeles. Royal Opera House. (01-240 1066).



WELCOME GUEST: Bernard Haitink relinquishes his usual operatic concerns tomorrow evening to renew his link with the London Philharmonic, of which he became a guest conductor in 1964 and Principal Conductor from 1967 to 1979. Operetta will in fact be represented by the overture to Johann Strauss II's Die Fledermaus, but the main item is Symphony No 1 by Mahler, whose music was originally one of the chief bases of Haitink's repertoire. Royal Festival Hall (01-926 3191), 7.30pm.



SOLDIER BLUES: Kurt Vonnegut's particular brand of deadly serious flip humour is once again deployed in his latest novel, Bluebeard (Jonathan Cape, £10.95), published next week. Rabo Karabekian is a one-eyed, old, Armenian soldier, a footnote in art history as a pioneer and collector of abstract Expressionist art, who is trying to write his autobiography. But the Widow Berman, a nosy, manipulative author of novels about abortion, is moving in, threatening to bring new life to him. "She scares the pants off me," he says.



DAY'S DEBUT: Morris Day, the sassy soul-funk singer who played Prince's arch-rival in Purple Rain, makes his English stage debut tonight. Although born in Springfield, Illinois, and now resident in Los Angeles, Day won renown as a key figure in the influential network of Minneapolis musicians, notably as front man of the Time, a platinum-selling group which included the celebrated production team of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Tonight and tomorrow, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

THEATRE LONDON

ALPHA BETA: George Costigan and Gillian Brown in Ted Whitehead's exorbitant study of an impossible marriage. Man in the Moon... 352 Kings Road, London SW3 (01-837 1287). Previews from Tues. Opens May 5. CELEBRATIONS: Gayle Hunnicutt hosts an afternoon of prize-winning plays written and performed by children; 2.30pm. Sylvester McCoy hosts a fund-raising auction. Lunch 1.30pm. Unicorn Theatre, The Arts, Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-836 3334). Sun. CHILDREN'S ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE: Princess Margaret attends an NSPCC charity show featuring Ken Dodd, Norman Wisdom, Michael Barrymore, The Muppets, Vienna Boys' Choir, and many more. Victoria Palace (01-242 1626 for tickets). Sun, 7pm. THE WINTER'S TALE: Eileen Atkins, Sally Dexter, Shirley Henderson, Tim Pigott-Smith, Ken Stott, directed by Peter Hall. Cottesloe (01-928 2252). Previews from Thurs. Opens May 18. In repertory.

OUT OF TOWN

BELFAST: The Loves of Cass McGuire: Brian Friel play about a woman returning to Ireland after 50 years in the United States. Lyric Players (0232 381081). Opens Wed. CARDIFF: A Blow to Bute Street: An elderly local jazz musician relives his youth. Sherman (0222 30451). Opens Tues. PETERBOROUGH: Russell of the Times: James Hayes's one-man war correspondent. Start of a tour. Epsom College, Epsom Surrey (tickets not generally available). Mon, 7.30pm. Stahl Theatre, West Street, Dundee, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (0832 73933). Wed, 7.45pm. Riverside Studios, London W6 (01-748 3354). May 13, 14. EXETER: Simplicity: Premiere of a newly discovered early 18th century comedy, written by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Northcott (0392 54553). Opens Tues. GUILDFORD: Sufficient Carbohydrate: Musical touring company in Dennis Potter's only play (so far) written for the stage. Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud (0483 60191). Tues and Wed. Moves to Wilde Theatre, Bracknell, Berkshire (0344 484123). Thurs to Apr 30. STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Macbeth: Miles Anderson as Macbeth, Duncan Bell as Malcolm, in a re-cast revival of the 1985 Adrian Noble production. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). Previews from Thurs. Opens May 4. In repertory.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: This is the week of the Royal Opera Midland Bank Proms: 350 tickets at £4, one per applicant, on sale one hour before curtain up. Queue early. Sian Edwards conducts new Nicholas Hytner production of Tippett's The Knot Garden, opening on Fri at 8pm. Last performances on Tues and next Sat of Sir Peter Hall's new Salome. On Mon and Thurs, at 7.30pm, further performances of Lucia di Lammermoor. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Revival of Così fan tutte, this time with Felicity Lott and Della Jones, opens on Wed at 7pm (also on Fri). Nicholas Hytner's Magic Flute continues its run on Tues and

WORD-WATCHING

ANSWERS from page 24 CHERUBIMICAL (b) One of 227 synonyms for the condition of being drunk, including nintytical, listed by Benjamin Franklin. The stage is set for an instructive tale of insider dealing, sudden riches, and fathers and sons at loggerheads (Bud Fox's father is a Blue Star employee; he is played, appropriately, by Charlie Sheen's father, Martin). Oliver Stone's own father was a stockbroker and writer on economics, and Stone knows the jungle well: "There is no physical violence on Wall Street, but tensions and mental violence are a way of life down there. These men and women really live on stock-and-bond high wire acts - taking over companies, structuring the capital of this country and shaping the

RADIO

Thurs at 7pm; and a welcome revival of The Makropoulos Case tonight and next Sat at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: Welcome and strongly cast revival of Britten's Death in Venice tonight and Thurs at 7.15pm, with a matinee on Sat April 30. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234).

THE PIED PIPER (15): Extraordinary Czech animated version of the fairy-tale, with puppets carved from walnuts. Eyemaster Hipsquad (01-435 1525), from Sun.

PROMISED LAND (15): Aimless young lives in Midco America. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

RETRIBUTION (18): Dennis Linscomb as a would-be suicide whose body is taken over by a murder victim bent on revenge. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Shaftbury Avenue (01-836 8279), from Fri.

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DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Fiona Chadwick dances Swan Lake tonight; Maria Almeida takes the lead this afternoon and at Wednesday's Prom performance. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

NORTHERN BALLET: A Simple Man continues until Tuesday; then Coppelia Thursday April 30. Sadler's Wells (01-278 1616).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Two more performances at Bradford today of an attractive programme including Carmen and Etudes; then Makarova's Swan Lake at Oxford, Monday to April 30. Alhambra, Bradford (0274-752000), Apollo, Oxford (0868-244554).

CONCERTS

FOSS'S RENAISSANCE: James Galway with the LSO under David Zinman in Lukas Foss's Renaissance Flute Concerto. The orchestra also contributes Richard Strauss's Don Juan and Dvorak's Symphony No 8. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC1 (01-628 8795; cc 01-638 8881). Today, 7.45pm.

STRAUSS GAMES: As part of the End Games series on the South Bank, Richard Strauss's Symphonic Fragments from Die Liebe der Danae, his Four Last Songs (Alison Hargan, soprano), Till Eulenspiegel and Rosenkavalier Suite are heard from the Philharmonia Orchestra under Andrew Davis. Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

GALA MESSIAH: The Duchess of Gloucester hears Handel's Messiah by the Philharmonia Chorus, Orchestra and soloists. Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

GALA ECO: The Prince of Wales hears the ECO under Jeffrey Tate play Rossini's Barbieri di Siviglia concerto, Mozart's Piano Concerto K 503, Haydn's Symphony No 99. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

GARRICK OHLSSON: This distinguished pianist in Weber's Sonata No 1, Schubert's Klavierstücke D 946, Debussy's Sonata, Samuel Barber's Sonata. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Wed, 7.30pm.

FROM BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Ravel's Daphnis et Chloé Suite No 2, Webern's Six Pieces and Stravinsky's Apollo. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.15pm.

ARMADA 1588-1988: More than 500 artefacts, many borrowed from Spain. National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (01-858 4422). Until September 4.

THE GRAPHIC LANGUAGE OF NEVILLE BRODY: Works by the young designer and typographer of, among other publications, The Face, Arena and City Limits. Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 (01-938 8363). From Wednesday.

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SONNY ROLLINS: The saxophonist's quartet appears on the same bill as Stan Tracey's big band. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Tues, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031-228 1155). Thurs.

JAMES MOODY: The reeds player's most recent recording was the amiable RCA album Something Special. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1, (01-439 0747) Mon to Sat.

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ARMADA 1



Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1411.6 (-11.8)

FT-SE 100
1771.6 (-20.3)

Bargains
29201 (24308)

USM (Datastream)
149.06 (+0.06)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8900 (-0.0090)

W German mark
3.1620 (+0.0030)

Trade-weighted
78.7 (-0.1)

Pressure fades for rate cut

The pound slipped back against a stronger dollar yesterday, but continued to gain ground against the mark. There was little pressure for an early cut in base rates.

Dealers believe that the pound will have to push substantially higher before the Bank of England and Treasury will permit a further rate cut. Money market rates firmed slightly yesterday.

The pound rose by a penny to DM1.6730 and from Y124 to Y124.75 against the yen. The rise was attributed to short-covering by dealers ahead of the weekend.

200% jump

Grand Central Investment Holdings, the international food manufacturing and distribution group, raised pretax profits by 200 per cent last year to £1.4 million. Turnover went up by the same amount to £12.4 million.

Bonar stake

Tomkins has been flushed out as a 2 per cent shareholder in Low & Bonar, the Scottish plastics and packaging group whose shares have risen sharply on takeover speculation.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Stock Market (New York, Dow Jones, Tokyo, Nikkei Average, Hang Kong, etc.) and Closing prices.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with columns for RISES (Assoc Energy, Brammer, Warrington, etc.) and FALLS (Coca Cola, Bossey & Hawkes, etc.).

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for London Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for London, New York, DM, Sfr, FF, Yen, etc.

GOLD

Table with columns for London Fixing, AM, Close, etc.

NORTH SEA OIL

Table with columns for Brent (May), pm \$17.20/bbl, etc.

Record home loans fuel inflation fear

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mortgage lending broke records last month as the spring boom in house buying started, but with a continuing strong inflow of retail deposits, building societies were well able to meet the demand.

According to figures published yesterday by the Building Societies Association, loans exceeded £4 billion for the first time in a single month. Net new commitments - loans promised but not yet implemented - hit almost £6 billion, more than 40 per cent higher than the previous record last July.

The high level of mortgage lending, after Thursday's massive bank lending figure, is no comfort to the Government in its battle to hold down inflation. But the scramble for home loans is set to continue at the same rate in the near future, the BSA said.

Mr Mark Boleat, the director general of the BSA, said: "Lending is likely to stay at this level for the next two or three months."

Borrowing is being en-

couraged by the latest round of cuts in home loan rates to about 9.5 per cent, which will be introduced on May 1 by most societies. Home buyers will also have more money to spend after the cut in personal tax rates in the Budget.

In addition, demand for homes is receiving extra stimulus from the rush to beat the August deadline after which unmarried couples buying a home together will cease to qualify for two sets of mortgage interest tax relief.

Building societies have no shortage of funds to lend because of a massive inflow of retail deposits since the stock market crash. They received a net £1,059 million in March, the fourth month out of the past five when deposit inflows have topped £1 billion.

Over the past six months the average inflow has been more than £1 billion a month, setting a record. The previous best six-monthly period was September 1983 to February 1984 when inflows averaged £900 million a month.

The surge in deposits reflects the public's distrust of

SE moves after TV claims



Records dug out by Stock Exchange officials: James Neill's chief executive, Peter Bullock

Suter deals in James Neill stock examined

By Joe Joseph

Officials of the Stock Exchange have investigated dealings by Suter, Mr David Abell's last-growing industrial holding company, in the shares of James Neill Holdings, the Sheffield garden and hand tool maker.

The information they collected is believed to have been passed on to the Department of Trade and Industry. Two members of the exchange's surveillance department visited Neill's offices shortly after Christmas and spent two days looking through the company's share register, specifically at dealings and share transfer documents relating to the periods in 1983 and 1984 when Suter took a stake in James Neill.

Mr Peter Bullock, Neill's chief executive, confirmed last night: "We have been visited by investigators from the Stock Exchange looking at Suter's dealings in our shares and we understand that the information they gathered has been passed on to the Department of Trade and Industry."

The investigations immediately followed allegations on a television programme of insider trading by Mr Abell in the shares of various companies. They are believed to have focused on the timing of dealings in Neill's shares by several nominee accounts in relation to purchases subsequently made by Suter.

In August 1984, Suter disclosed that it had boosted its stake in Neill from 5 per cent to 10.74 per cent. Mr Abell has denied charges levelled in the Channel 4 television programme, called *The Insiders*. The broadcast dealt with alleged insider dealing and alleged "concert parties".

Mr Abell has issued a libel writ against the programme makers.

US investors win Crescent vote

By Martin Waller

The bid by a concert party of American investors to utilize the Crescent Japan Investment Trust cleared the first hurdle yesterday at the extraordinary meeting they requisitioned in Edinburgh.

The voting showed the proposals by Grace-Pinto and Associates, a New York group of investors centred on the Grace family, had the clear backing of the biggest investors but not of individuals and smaller institutions.

A move to keep the company as an investment trust lost by 32.45 million votes to 16.61 million. A second resolution, to proceed with unitization within 60 days, had the approval of 35.18 million votes, with 18.39 million against.

None of the large institutions was at yesterday's meeting, but it is believed that the three biggest shareholders, Barclays de Zoete Wedd (with 12.5 per cent), Sun Life (6.7 per cent) and Sun Alliance (5.4 per cent), all backed the

American proposals. It is thought that the Commercial Union, General Accident and the Co-operative Insurance Society, all of whom have just under 5 per cent, stayed with the board.

The Americans are sitting on a stake of 21 per cent. Mr Alan McIntroy, the Crescent Japan chairman, said 97 per cent of the votes for unitization had come from six out of the top 10 biggest shareholders.

The result, however, had both sides claiming victory. Mr McIntroy said it was a clear message that Crescent Japan should continue as an investment trust.

But the other side, represented at the meeting by Mr Oliver Grace Junior and Mr James Pinto, said Mr McIntroy's comments were irrelevant and confused and in no way altered the fact that shareholders had voted clearly for unitization.

Spending shows steady rise

Consumer spending continued to grow at a robust pace in the first three months of this year, according to official figures. Growth could be moderating, although the Budget tax cuts and lower mortgage rates are likely to provide a further boost.

Statistical Office showed, 0.6 per cent up on the fourth quarter of last year. This compares with rises of 0.9 per cent in the fourth quarter and 2.6 per cent in the third quarter of last year.

However, there was a rise of 6.2 per cent in the first quarter against a year earlier. And it is uncertain whether the apparent easing of consumer spending growth will have been accompanied by an increase in the personal saving ratio, which fell to a 30-year low in the second half of last year.

The figures for the first quarter of this year showed continued strong growth in retail sales, tempered by a decline in spending on gas and electricity because of the mild winter weather.

First quarter consumer spending totalled £44.1 billion (in 1980 prices), preliminary estimates from the Central

Guinness inquiry examines suspected insider dealing

By Lawrence Lever

The Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into Guinness, the drinks and leisure company, is believed to be examining purchases of shares in Arthur Bell & Sons, by Jersey and Swiss nominee companies, before the public announcement that Guinness was going to bid for the Scotch whisky group.

The DTI is examining evidence of suspected insider dealing in Bell shares by several individuals, some of whom are believed to be prominent names, who used the Jersey and Swiss nominees to buy their shares. The DTI inquiries could lead to criminal charges.

Bell shares rose from 160p to 192p in the three days before the bid announcement on June 14, 1985. This prompted complaints by Guinness, which called for an inquiry.

The Stock Exchange did investigate, but its inquiries apparently floundered when Guinness, presented with evidence of suspected insider dealing, claimed that there was nothing in it. According to sources close to the DTI, the results of the Stock Exchange investigation were resurrected after inspectors were appointed into Guinness in December, 1986. The Exchange's evidence is believed to have been passed on to the DTI and the Fraud

Slough's Eurobond issue

By Colin Campbell

Slough Estates, the property group concentrating on industrial assets, is raising £150 million through a Euro-convertible bond issue to finance a current development programme conservatively estimated at £550 million.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, the chairman, says the issue has been structured in a way that will enable Slough Estates to take advantage of terms currently available in the international markets. The issue, dated 2003, carries a coupon of 6 per cent and the bonds are convertible into ordinary shares at 324p.

Yesterday, Slough Estates shares stood at 281p, compared with market estimates of a current net worth of around 300p a share, which analysts expect to rise to between 340p and 350p by the end of 1988. The bonds are being offered by way of rights to ordinary and 8 per cent stock holders on the basis of £100 nominal of bonds for every 187.604989 ordinary shares held; or £100 nominal for every £19-2415347 of stock.

A "rolling put" option assures investors of a compound redemption yield of approximately 9.45 per cent a year, including supplementary interest paid at redemption. The Euro-bond issue has been fully underwritten by SG Warburg and a syndicate of international institutions, and - as the first of its kind - could pave the way for new possibilities in the way other fundraising transactions might be handled. Tempus.

Queue grows at Japanese SE

By David Watts in Tokyo and David Smith

Financial negotiators have again called for more British firms to be given seats on the Tokyo stock exchange, but Japan is unable to offer any immediate prospect of entry. The TSE issue may cast a shadow over the visit to London of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister of Japan, next month, although yesterday officials at the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry played down the dispute.

There is little prospect that Britain's outstanding applications for seats on the TSE will affect the impending entry into the gilt-edged market of Nomura and Daiwa, the Japanese securities houses. Both firms have completed technical discussions with the Bank in recent weeks, and are due to start market-making operations over the next two months.

The Bank could be called on to delay the go-ahead for the two Japanese firms, but yesterday this appeared to be highly unlikely. Discussions between the Bank, Nomura and Daiwa have been proceeding since last autumn. Treasury officials said yesterday that the question of whether the two firms started operating as gilt market-makers rested with the Bank. Mrs Thatcher has indicated that she expects outstanding Anglo-Japanese issues to be settled speedily. Among those are seats for two more British firms, including Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd, and abolition of discriminatory taxes on Scotch whisky.

Sir Geoffrey Lintler, the Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, said in Tokyo this week that he had expected agreement during his visit. He said it was unfortunate that entry should be limited by such an old-fashioned problem as the amount of space available in the TSE. Despite attitudes markedly different from his first visit four years ago, Sir Geoffrey issued a veiled warning to Japanese counterparts that continued progress on their entry into British financial markets was dependent on progress in Tokyo. He could not predict early agreement on new TSE entries but said: "I'm satisfied that there is a great deal of goodwill." Sir Geoffrey said the British timeframe for the admission of Barclays and James Capel to the TSE was one year. Asked if the issue would affect the

French clear Les Echos purchase

By Colin Campbell

The French government will not stand in the way of Pearson's £88 million plan to buy Les Echos, the French financial daily, after having earlier moved to block the deal on fears that control of Les Echos might move out of non-European Economic Community hands.

M Edouard Balladur, the French Finance Minister, has now accepted Pearson's contention that even though The News Corporation has a 20.5 per cent stake in Pearson, more than 70 per cent of Pearson equity was still owned by EEC citizens, and that Pearson was therefore an EEC company.

Pearson, the publishing, banking and information group which owns the Financial Times, and Mme Jacqueline Betyout, the owner of Les Echos, last week agreed a modified contract under which Pearson will initially acquire only two-thirds of the equity of Les Echos, taking up the balance a year later.

Part of the payment for Les Echos comprises 7.375 million Pearson shares, and under the terms of the revised bid the right of first refusal for these shares is granted to Lazard Freres et Cie, thus ensuring a continued French connection.

A Pearson spokesman said yesterday that completion of the deal was expected to take place shortly.

M&S will cut price for US deal by \$20m

By Alexandra Jackson

Marks and Spencer has renegotiated the price it will pay Campeau Corporation, the Canadian property group, for Brooks Brothers, the US retail chain, from \$770 million to \$750 million (£397 million). The transaction is expected to be completed next Wednesday.

The saving was achieved by changing the funding arrangement for the part of the purchase covered by the issue of a Marks and Spencer 10-year promissory note.

The interest terms of the note have been adjusted from a fixed rate of 8 1/2 per cent to a floating rate at London Inter-Bank Offered Rate.

Mr Keith Oates, Marks and Spencer's finance director, said: "When both sides took a closer look at the financing of the deal, it became apparent that Campeau preferred a floating interest rate. We are not worried about having a floating rate at Libor."

Advertisement for Sunday Telegraph Unit Trust Group of the Year. Text includes: "Sunday Telegraph Unit Trust Group of the Year", "For more information on our range of unit trusts, life and pension products, contact your independent financial adviser.", "Prolific FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT Unit Trusts - Pensions - Life Assurance", "Prolific Unit Trust Managers Limited, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS", "Tel: 01-247 6544".

Vertical sidebar containing various news snippets and advertisements. Includes: "Hope of arms treaty stalled", "like pledge led... big pay rise", "PM", "LONDON", "MANCHESTER", "YESTERDAY", "DON TODAY", "THE POUND".

WPP pays \$20.25m for marketing firm

WPP Group, the advertising and promotions company, has further expanded its United States services division with the purchase, for a maximum of \$20.25 million (£10.66 million), of Einson Freeman, a New Jersey marketing company.

Ewart seeks suspension

Ewart, the Belfast property company formerly called Ewart New Northern, yesterday requested a suspension of trading on the Stock Exchange, pending a re-organization. The company statement also said contracts had been exchanged "in connection with a major acquisition".

Irish food firm expands

Wardell Roberts, the Dublin food distributor which is quoted on the USM, is buying the goodwill, trade and name of Woodford Bourne & Co, a wine wholesaler based in Cork in the Irish Republic.

P&P in flotation plan

P&P, the computer distribution company chaired by Professor Roland Smith, is coming to the stock market via a £14.99 million placing by J Henry Schroder Wagg & Co, the merchant bank.

Agricultural firm's debut

A new agricultural company, Plant Breeding International Cambridge, was officially launched in London yesterday. The company is the result of the privatization of the National Seed Development Organization, and parts of the Plant Breeding Institute.

Lloyds for Luxemburg

Lloyds Bank has announced plans to open a private banking operation in Luxemburg this year. The branch is designed to attract wealthy EEC customers, and will offer private banking and investment management services.

Propeller lifts off

Propeller, the leisure wear company traded on the Third Market, has reported pretax profits of £418,000 in the year to end-January, up 33 per cent from £314,000 in the previous 12 months.

Inco jumps to \$124m

Inco, the North American nickel group, achieved first-quarter profits of \$124 million (£65.6 million), compared with \$72.6 million in the last quarter of 1987, and a first quarterly 1987 loss of \$8 million.

Maple Leaf sales down

The Royal Canadian Mint says official sales of the Gold Maple Leaf coin totalled 1.425 million ounces last year, compared with 1.51 million ounces sold in 1986.

Options and Futures for the Private Investor

A fear of losing unlimited amounts of money and general lack of understanding has led the private investor to avoid the futures and options markets. In reality, buying options guarantees you limited liability.

Form with fields for Name, Address, Telephone No., and Postcode. Includes a coupon for David Maudsley.

Rights issue fears depress shares

Fears that someone may be lining up another big rights issue saw investors scuttling for cover yesterday and the equity market ended the two-week account on a flat note.

News of a surprise, £150 million Eurobond issue from Sloagh Estates, the property developer, revived fears in the market-place that a queue of companies hungry for cash may be forming.

Only last account, Barclays Bank shook the market by asking shareholders for an extra £928 million with a deeply discounted rights issue.

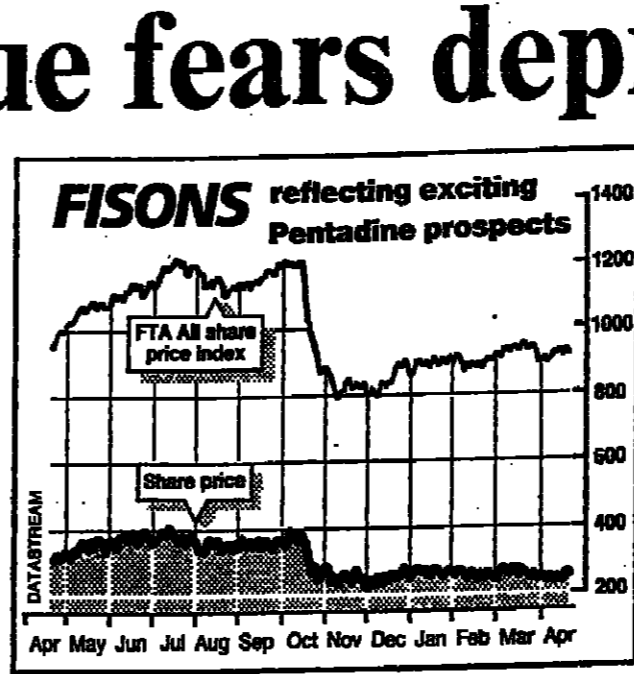
Heading the list of possible contenders is Standard Chartered, the international banking group, which confirmed, along with the full-year figures, a few weeks ago, that it would be turning to the market for more money at some stage to ease its bad debt problem.

Brokers claim that any rights issue is likely to fall foul of the institutions in the market's current nervous state - unless it is heavily discounted, as in the case of Barclays, or financed by an issue of convertible shares.

Prices generally opened just a few pence easier following a lacklustre performance overnight on Wall Street and continued to drift throughout the day.

By the close of business, a total of 514.9 million shares had been traded on the Stock Exchange computer (Seaq)

STOCK MARKET



The FT-SE 100 index ended just above its worst levels of the day with a fall of 20.3 at 1,771.6, having been just 2.4 down earlier in the day.

Government securities closed with falls stretching to 3/4 as hopes of another early cut in interest rates continued to recede.

Recal, the electronics group, which has been a strong performer of late on vague talk of a possible bid from Cable and Wireless, lost 5p to 238p as investors decided to wind up their positions.

Trusthouse Forte slipped 2p to 235p, still worried by the weak dollar and its impact on hotel occupancy rates.

18 million shares changed hands. Among blue chips, ICI remained a nervous market, losing 11p to £9.68, ahead of first-quarter figures next week.

Investors are hoping for good news next week from a seminar to be hosted by Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. Dr Ed Barnard of the Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute of New York, who has been involved in the clinical trials on Pentamidine, may address an audience at the seminar before attending a similar function in Paris.

End-of-account profit-taking took its toll of a number of recent speculative favourites. Rowntree, the Acro, Kit Kat, Rolo and Smarties chocolate group and the best feature this account, was one casualty.

The shares were given a shot in the arm this week by a buy circular from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker. Now Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, another broker, has joined the growing band of admirers.

Mr Paul Woodhouse and his team of analysts at Scrimgeour are excited by the prospects for Pentamidine, which is used for treating AIDS-related pneumonia. They are also looking for substantial growth during the next couple of years from Intal, the group's anti-asthmatic drug.

End-of-account profit-taking took its toll of a number of recent speculative favourites. Rowntree, the Acro, Kit Kat, Rolo and Smarties chocolate group and the best feature this account, was one casualty.

Shares of Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse, the British Home Stores and Habitat-Mothercare retailing group, which were this week catapulted back into the takeover spotlight by stories of a dawn raid, or full bid, from a consortium said to include Mr Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher and Dr Ashraf Marwan, the Egyptian financier, also gave ground in the absence of bid developments.

The shares, which touched 300p in frantic dealings late on Wednesday, met with modest profit-taking and closed 4p lower at 283p, after 280p, as almost 4 million shares changed hands.

Hong Kong Wharf, the cash-rich, Far Eastern property group, headed by Sir YK Pao, yesterday refused to comment on market suggestions that it was ready to bid for Storehouse.

Seas, the Seifridges, Freemans and Saxeone group, declined by 3p to 131p in thin trading.

It's been a busy account for Smith New Court, the securities house. Last week, it placed Carclo's 5.1 per cent stake in Brideson with various institutions.

Dealers still believe that the Al-Fayeds, the owners of Harrods and of a 10 per cent stake in Sears, are anxious to get their hands on Seifridges and will soon launch a bid for the group.

Underwoods, the troubled, London-based retail chemist chain, which this month produced a gloomy statement about last year's trading and a sweeping change of management, could soon be put out of its misery.

Although the shares of Underwoods slipped by 5p to 138p on end-of-account selling, the word is that Next, the high street retailer chaired by Mr George Davies, is considering making a bid for the company.

Mr Davies, a former non-executive director of Underwoods, is keen to keep Next's aggressive acquisitive policy moving and give the new management team at Underwoods an early baptism of fire.

Under yesterday's close of 138p, Underwoods is capitalized at just £37.5 million, compared with the £49 million it was worth when it came to the market in November 1985.

Mr Davies could easily afford to place Underwoods under his umbrella, despite having already spent £21 million this month on buying Alfred Freedy, the Midlands newsagent and tobacconist.

Shares of Next closed 1p lower at 268p, after 265p. Sun Life, the sole remaining, quoted pure life assurance company, also met a few sellers to close 25p down at £10.95.

The shares had touched £11.60 this week in a restricted market on whispers that Liberty Life of South Africa's offshoot, Transatlantic Holdings, which already holds a 25 per cent stake in the company, was about to bid for the rest.

George Wimpey, the housebuilding, construction and property group, advanced by a further 10p to 268p as more than 3 million shares were traded.

Speculation intensified that the Grove Charity Management has sold its 35 per cent stake in the company.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

Govan may be extended

Kvaerner Industrier, the Norwegian company negotiating to buy the Govan shipyard on Clydeside from British Shipbuilders, may extend the yard to build bigger vessels, if it proves internationally competitive.

The Oslo engineering, shipping and shipbuilding company, which hopes to have sewn up an agreement with BS by the summer, has immediate plans to build two liquefied petroleum gas carriers at the Scottish yard.

Govan's existing capacity allows the construction of gas tankers up to 60,000 tonnes capacity, making it possible for Kvaerner to proceed with initial plans for gas and chemical carriers in the 32,000 to 55,000 cubic metre class.

Coats plans £13m refit of carpet plant

Coats Vytella, the textile group, is to spend £13.5 million on re-equipping and expanding its tufted carpet plant at Donaghadee, County Down. Employment at the factory will be increased from the present 430 to 550 over the next three years.

Mr Sander Ferris, the managing director of Coats Vytella's carpets division, said the factory's present machinery, which is slow and inefficient by modern standards, will be replaced with "state of the art" equipment, making it one of the most modern carpet plants in Europe.

The factory currently produces 15 million square metres of carpet a year.

DTI backing for electronics study

The Government has decided to continue backing research by British companies into a new material for electronics, despite Plessey's controversial decision not to link up with GEC in establishing a national foundry to make devices out of the material.

The move ends industry fears that the Government would no longer support it in developing the technology, which is based on gallium arsenide, a replacement for the traditional silicon.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it had accepted industry advice that something had to be salvaged from the break-up of the Plessey-GEC venture.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns for Symbol, Call, Put, and other option data for various stocks.

NEW YORK

Dow quickly ahead

(Reuters) - Shares held their opening gains in early trading yesterday on another burst of futures-related buying. Program buying and selling made the market swing erratically on Thursday.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for Date, Symbol, and Price for various Wall Street securities.

TOKYO

Market in doldrums

(Reuters) - Share prices closed easier after an overnight drop on Wall Street and due to the absence of fresh positive factors. Some profit-taking was seen after Wednesday's gains.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns for Symbol, Last Dealings, and For Settlement for various traditional options.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for Symbol, Price, and other data for recent issues.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table with columns for Symbol, Price, and other data for rights issues.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table with columns for Symbol, Price, and other data for alpha stocks.

CANADIAN PRICES

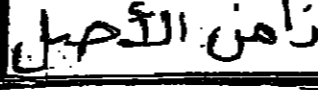
Table with columns for Symbol, Price, and other data for Canadian prices.

FT-SE INDEX

Table with columns for Date, Index Value, and other data for the FT-SE index.

FT-SE CLOSING

Table with columns for Date, Index Value, and other data for FT-SE closing.



مكثان الاجل

Racal sets pace in Europe's race towards single market



Sir Ernest Harrison is an enthusiast — for Racal, racing and the rationale of a single European market. At Racal he is on course for a rare double — a second growth stock within the span of one chairman. In Europe he is a pacesetter, while in the market Racal shares (243p with a speculative following) are, I suggest, again a core investment.

KENNETH FLEET

Alerting investors to the merits of a share is much easier than stirring the interest of British companies in the European Commission's resolve "to achieve a single large market by 1992, thereby creating a more favourable environment for stimulating enterprise, competition and trade."

Our insularity is not quite as marked as in 1957 when the Treaty of Rome, if it were thought of at all, was scornfully dismissed as a fantasy of the absurd European imagination. The Government at least is not making the same mistake as its predecessors did then. Sir John Harvey-Jones fixes us from page and screen with Kitchener intensity and it may not be too long before it dawns on companies operating only in the domestic market that their businesses too will be exposed to new competition.

The integrated market will be created by eliminating barriers that still divide Europe: physical (different standards and fiscal (different indirect taxes). Some of the costs of division are an indication of potential benefits. Frontier formalities are estimated to cost £8.3 billion, different technical standards for products a staggering £30 billion. Favouring home producers in awarding government contracts is also said to cost European taxpayers £30 billion. The 12 members of the

Community together spend about the same amount on research and development as Japan but because it is fragmented it is less effective.

Of course not everything will happen in the form or at the time foreseen by proponents of the unified market — but plenty will and it is not too soon to speculate about the implications of deregulation. The year 1992 is the deadline, not the starting date — a mistake made here but not across the Channel.

Smith New Court (in which I have to declare a modest interest) has put together an analysis of some significant aspects of deregulation, including a handy Continental takeover directory. Cross-border takeovers are becoming a feature of the London market and are bound to increase, with British companies increasingly frequent targets. France and Belgium, while not as open to foreign bids as Britain, are relatively so. In contrast West Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland are heavily protective but at the same time expansive and likely to be active in the takeover game. Spain is a magnet for investment because of its high growth rate and the need to make up ground.

The impact of deregulation on industry obviously will vary. SNC sees the biggest impact in telecommunications, information technology, financial services and transport. In telecommunications, specific measures have been agreed to integrate national systems handling voice, text, facsimile and data transmission by 1993, and a move made toward a digital cellular radio standard within the European Economic Community from 1991 onward. Which brings me back to Sir Ernest Harrison and Racal.

Analysis are again looking with favour on a stock that had shone as brightly as any star before falling out of the electrical sky. The Third World market for mobile military communications equipment had shrunk and Racal's incursions into corporate America, now under control, were proving beyond its capacity to manage. The purchase of Decca from under GEC's nose was inspired but all defence work has become increasingly competitive and much less profitable.

Racal's achievement is to change the thrust of the business from a narrow specialized market where growth is restricted, to consumer markets where it is virtually limitless. The temptation to back into the problems of the electronics industry by merger or acquisition is being resisted. Cellular radio (Vodafone) and security (Chubb) are what Racal is now about.

With BT, Racal shares the British market for mobile telephones and is one of two British companies licensed to operate the pan-European digital cellular radio network. More than half Racal's profits come from Vodafone and security, and given the new European dimension, which will also help security, this proportion, and thus the quality of Racal's earnings, will rise.

With two runners like this in the stable, who needs racehorses?

Government's economic Catch 22

The Government is in a Catch 22 situation. The frailty of the US dollar and the courting of Europe, physical (different standards and fiscal (different indirect taxes). Some of the costs of division are an indication of potential benefits. Frontier formalities are estimated to cost £8.3 billion, different technical standards for products a staggering £30 billion. Favouring home producers in awarding government contracts is also said to cost European taxpayers £30 billion. The 12 members of the

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same cannot be said of today's prices. Earnings this year are expected to grow by around 13 per cent, and in 1989 by about 11 per cent (James Capel's estimates). If they are right, industrial equities are now on a prospective price-earnings of 11, falling next year to 10. These are not bad defensive positions.

With all the usual caveats ringing in our ears, let us then test the water. I have already referred to Racal. In the same category of imaginative strategic management I would put P&O (580p). Sir Jeffrey Sterling and Bruce MacPhail have revealed one of the hidden strengths of British industry, namely its high level of efficiency. Strength because when good management is applied to it, progress is astonishing. And there is still a long way to go, even in companies whose performance has already turned sceptics into acolytes. P&O has a problem with ferries; it also has zeal, determination and construction and property divisions.

A coherent and evolving strategy is also evident at Trusthouse Forte (234p), where Rocco Forte is rapidly filling the mantle handed to him by his

father. When looking at THF, it is easy to be deflected by sideways, although the continuing struggle with the Savoy is hardly a sideshow. The strength and balance the group has already achieved in hotels and catering make the shares a core holding.

A company still suffering from its past is British Airways (164p) whose figures are due next month. The Lord King-Sir Colin Marshall-Gordon Dunlop trio has done an outstanding job. Acquiring British Caledonian and, more particularly, the code-sharing agreement with United Airlines, were shrewd initiatives. A rerating of BA is overdue.

Earlier in the year I extolled the virtues of independent oil companies, one of which, Enterprise (now 370p), has become the star of the British exploration and production sector. The shares have had an excellent rise and the market in them is relatively restricted, but Enterprise will be around for a long time (unless it is taken over). I believe in backing good management — a quality Enterprise has demonstrated in its relationship with ICI as well as in its success in the North Sea, culminating in the Nelson field.

Buyout at Hill Samuel insurer

Lowndes Lambert, the Lloyd's insurance broking arm of the Hill Samuel group, is being bought by its management in a deal thought to be worth about £15 million.

Fifty five members of the management have put up more than £1 million towards the buyout which is being supported by a group of institutional investors.

These are led by Candover Investments, Alan Patricof Associates, ECI Ventures, the Candover 87 Fund and Mars Security.

Bank finance is coming from the National Westminster Bank.

Hill Samuel, which has declined to put a figure on the deal, says the sale will end its involvement in international corporate insurance broking. However, the group is holding on to Hill House Hammond, the motor and household insurance subsidiary of Lowndes Lambert.

The idea of a management buyout of the business was first raised when it looked as if the Union Bank of Switzerland would bid for Hill Samuel.

Under Swiss rules it would not have been permitted to retain ownership of the company.

But this deal floundered and when Hill Samuel was subsequently taken over by the Trustee Savings Bank it was decided to proceed with the disposal.

Lowndes Lambert made a small profit last year as it suffered along with other insurance brokers from the strong dollar and a softening in premium income. But it is expected to bounce back strongly this year and is likely to match the £2.6 million made in 1986.

The company has offices in a number of countries and, in addition to handling general insurance business ranging from marine to aviation, has a fast expanding operation called APJA offering professional indemnity for architects.

Mr Richard Shaw, the chairman, said: "We have built up Lowndes Lambert successfully as part of the Hill Samuel group and we welcome the opportunity to develop further the company as an independent business."

"The degree of management investment is the best evidence of our confidence both in the prospects for the company."

Deadlock continues as Framlington fails to find white knight

Framlington, the unit trust management group which is furiously fighting a £67 million takeover bid from Throgmorton Trust, has so far failed to find a white knight.

Mr Bill Stuttaford, Framlington's chairman, said yesterday that the search continued. But he held out no firm hope to shareholders of an early announcement. "I will be writing to you again to report further progress," he tells them in a letter being posted this weekend.

Mr Stuttaford's disclosure was being taken in the City as a sign that the search for a swift solution to the deadlock which has split Framlington's

board may not now be easy.

The group's agonies began when Throgmorton Trust, which is managed by a minority within Framlington's own board through a group subsidiary called Throgmorton Investment Management Services, launched its bid. This extraordinary bid, led by Mr Bob Seabrook, Framlington's deputy chairman, followed a series of internal disagreements over policy.

Mr Stuttaford wrote to shareholders a month ago, revealing that the beleaguered unit trust group had commissioned Phoenix Securities to identify a suitable partner with the aim of resolving the

disagreements within the management without causing undue loss of confidence among customers.

A number of possible white knights were being mentioned, with Hambro tipped as the favourite. Both Phoenix and Framlington's merchant banking adviser, Morgan Grenfell, say shareholders should sit tight.

Key to a solution of Framlington's troubles is the 28.8 per cent stake held by the French group, Credit Commercial de France.

Yesterday, Throgmorton Trust revealed that it had lifted its holding to 11 per cent.

Name change signals transition to minerals

Losses at Cluff grow to £2.1m

Cluff Oil, the USM-quoted mining and minerals exploration company, made a pretax loss in the year to end-December of £2.1 million against a previous loss of £18,000.

The loss contained a £1 million exceptional charge due to a write-off by an associate company in Australia. Turnover rose to £2.4 million from £2.2 million.

Mr Algy Cluff, the chairman, emphasized that 1987 was a turning point in Cluff's transition from an oil exploration to a minerals production company. It is changing its name, subject to shareholder approval, to Cluff Resources.

Production started this year at two gold mines in Zimbabwe and one in Spain and should rise to 80,000 ounces a year by the end of 1988, placing Cluff in the middle rank of international gold producers.

Discoveries in Zimbabwe have defined an additional 140,000 ounces of gold in open-pit reserves. Gold reserves in Zimbabwe now stand at 720,000 ounces, up 57 per cent on those stated in last year's annual report.

The company's strategy for the next two years is to accelerate its involvement in mineral exploration and development in Africa, Continental Europe and North America. See *Tempus* below



Planning ahead: Algy Cluff (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Cluff goes for gold far away from oil's troubled waters

Cluff Oil's swift transformation from an oil exploration company into a minerals production company has not yet been fully appreciated by the market.

Cluff still has one last oil exploration well to drill in Indonesia this summer, but after that its oil interests will be confined to production in France, the North Sea, America and offshore Oman. A high 95 per cent of the company's cashflow will come from minerals.

The main thrust of the new strategy is in Zimbabwe, where production from two open-pit gold mines — Freda and Rebecca — started this year. Cluff, and in particular Mr Algy Cluff, the chairman, clearly has no reservations about political or other uncertainties in Zimbabwe.

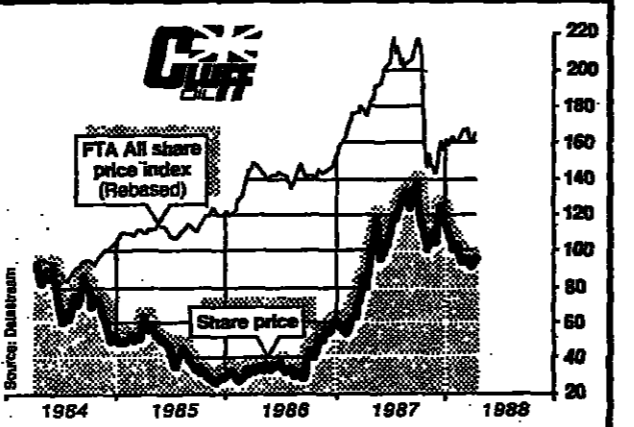
As the first overseas investor to go back into that country after its independence, Cluff has had a good relationship with the relevant government departments. The country's infrastructure is good, the gold mines are not in dangerous areas and the company has no fears of nationalization.

Cluff has been remitting dividends from Zimbabwe for the past three years, and sees no reason why it should not continue to do so. Mr Cluff is so bullish about Zimbabwe's prospects that he expects the country to become the "West Germany of Africa".

Cluff is not, however, putting all its eggs into one basket. Its Transacqion gold mine in Spain is increasing production and by the end of this year the company expects to have a total of four mines producing an annual 80,000 ounces of gold.

With an average operating cost in the Zimbabwe mines of \$220 per ounce, against a current gold price around \$448, there is clearly a more comfortable risk margin than in oil exploration.

The company intends to branch into industrial minerals in Europe and North America. Last year's £5 million rights issue has provided sufficient finance to start production rolling, and the



cashflow from the mines should now finance future development. Kleinwort Greaveson expects profits to bounce to £1.1 million this year and £5.8 million next year. The shares, up 5p to 100p yesterday, still do not put as high a value on the company as comparable minerals companies. There should be some way for the shares to go.

James Neill

James Neill, having climbed back from the setback it suffered when its Sheffield factory caught fire two years ago, now has a problem finding a way to fire the imagination of the City. Analysts seem less than excited by the company, in spite of a track record that, in the past, has attracted both Suter and Williams Holdings on to the share register.

Notwithstanding an impressive 68 per cent rise in pretax profits to £7.61 million last year on sales of £79.9 million, and a 70 per cent jump in earnings to 22.1p a share, the hand and garden tool group is dogged with a p/e of about 9, against an industry average of just above 10.

With analysts expecting pretax profits this year of about £9 million and earnings of 24p a share, the prospective p/e — for a company which many feel should carry a premium rating — falls to 8.

It is true that Neill's recovery received another setback recently when its proposed £6

million acquisition of the Diaston Company, a leading American hand tool manufacturer, was scrapped at the eleventh hour over what appears to be a legal hitch.

A confidentiality clause shrouds the stumbling block. But it is possible that Neill, still keen to beef up its US operations, will return to Diaston if the hitch can be resolved.

It is also worth remembering that Spear & Jackson, the Sheffield hand tool manufacturer Neill acquired in December 1985, has only just been fully integrated following delays caused by the fire. Cost savings of at least £500,000 should begin flowing through to boost profits this year.

Neill can take heart from the fact that overseas competitors do not seem to be making many inroads into the British market. There are still tasks ahead. In addition to strengthening its presence in America, Neill needs to acquire a company or distribution network in Europe to boost its profile in the EEC.

It is already number three in its field in Europe, and takeover talks with a West German company are under way.

Slough Estates

Slough Estates has been astute with the timing of its £150 million Euroconvertible bond issue dated 2003, which has more than just passing attraction.

Because the relative yield attraction once evident on its

ordinary shares has largely been whittled away — as a result of the strong share price performance since October — there is now a case, for those without undue capital gains problems, for changing horses from the ordinaries into the bonds.

The 6 per cent Euroconvertible bond issue raises £150 million of fresh capital to help finance a development programme, planned both in Britain and abroad, which — conservatively — runs to £550 million.

Had Slough made a domestic issue rather than a Eurobond issue, it might have had to offer a coupon at least 1 to 1.5 percentage points higher.

The bonds are convertible from June 1988 into ordinary shares at 324p each, and because the conversion price is not very far removed from last published net worth of 287p a share, the dilution effect should be minimal. Full conversion of the bond would result in the issue of shares representing approximately 16.7 per cent of Slough's existing capital.

Conversion price is also fairly close to the current estimate of net worth of at least 300p a share, which looks certain to rise. By year-end, net asset value could well have risen to between 340p and 350p a share.

There is a "rolling put" option, enabling holders to redeem between the years 1993 and 1998 at a value which assures a compound redemption yield of around 9.45 per cent.

Meanwhile, following recently-posted 1987 results showing pretax profits up from £49.6 million to £61.8 million, City forecasts for 1988 — which were about the £70 million mark — have been further upgraded. Borrowing at 6 per cent with the ability to deploy funds in the money market could add another £2 million to the pretax line.

Slough Estates' significant hold on the South-east industrial market, where demand remains strong, suggests the company — either via the bonds or the shares — is worth following.

hares

ment could soon be put into effect.

Although the shares of Underwoods slipped by 13p on the end-of-account to 132p, the word is that Mr George Davies, who is making a bid for the company.

Mr Davies, a former executive director of Underwoods, is keen to keep the company's assets intact and give the management team a chance to work out an early buyout plan.

At yesterday's close of Underwoods is valued at just £3.5 million, compared with the £49 million, compared with the £49 million, compared with the £49 million.

Mr Davies could be looking to place Underwoods under a public umbrella, having already spent £1 million this month on legal fees and £2 million on management and valuation.

Shares of Next closed at 250p after 25p. The sole remaining pure life assurance company, also met a 25p rise to 250p.

The shares had a record week in a recent market on which the Life of Southern Transatlantic, which already holds a 10 per cent stake in the company, was about to bid for the George Wimpey, the building, construction and property group, to a further 15p to 240p.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Filer

Backing for electronics study

Technology Correspondent

NEWS

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NEWS

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Nurses' housing hopes

Nurses are still trying to assess whether or not their pay award announced this week will be enough to get them on the house-buying ladder.

Some nurses will get an increase of only 4 per cent while others will get a huge 60 per cent rise in their pay. This could make all the difference between being trapped in rented accommodation and being able to afford a mortgage with one of the special schemes around at the moment.

Georgia Diebel, aged 23, a first-year staff nurse at King's College Hospital, London, earns a basic staff nurse salary, which is £7,300, or in her case £8,230 including London weighting. Her take-home pay varies from £512 to £549 a month depending on how many night shifts and weekends she has worked.

She lives in a rented house near the hospital with three other women and hopes to be able to get a mortgage with help from her family.

She says: "Even with the increase, there's no chance of a staff nurse being able to afford a mortgage on her own. The only way I could do it is with help from my family or maybe by sharing."

As an acting senior nurse at Westminster Hospital, a Lon-

don teaching hospital, Laura Savage is going to reap the fullest benefits from the Government's pay awards. Nurses such as Laura Savage and Georgia Diebel, who work in London, are going to be significantly better off.

If the award is to staunch the haemorrhaging of nursing staff out of London's hospitals, the big question is whether they will be able to get a toe on the housing ladder.

For a senior nurse such as Laura there is good news. An acting senior nurse is one grade up from a sister and two up from a staff nurse. Three new bands have been introduced for ward sisters in inner London, going from £12,048 to £17,238. If Laura finds herself on the second band, she could well see her salary rise by 60 per cent.

It will not be easy in London

It is an academic question for Laura as she and her husband moved out of London to Kent in order to buy a house. They pay just under £500 a month in mortgage repayments on a house they bought for £75,000. It remains to be seen whether

the pay awards of her junior colleagues - staff nurses at the Westminster now start at £9,677 on the lower scale and end on £12,538 on the upper scale - are big enough to enable them to join her in the housing market.

With the average two-bedroom Victorian terrace house in London now fetching £75,000 and rising, it is not going to be easy for newly enriched nurses in London. But at least it is no longer impossible.

Many of them will now look towards the cost-cutting Partnership Mortgage Scheme introduced for NHS employees in the London area by the Nationwide Anglia Building Society.

"We are not yet sure how the pay award will affect the pay award in London," a spokesman for the society said. "But our basic response is that any increase must obviously help."

Under the scheme, NHS staff can borrow more than usual, and they pay a lower rate of interest - two-thirds of normal rate, at present 6.8 per cent rather than 10.3 per cent, although Nationwide Anglia is expected to cut its rates next week.

But to balance these concessions Nationwide Anglia

takes a share of the profits when the property is sold.

The amount that goes to the building society depends on what percentage the loan represented of the value of the property. For instance, if it was a 100 per cent loan, Nationwide Anglia takes half of the profit; on an 80 per cent loan the society would take 40 per cent of the profit.

Any increase in the value of the property above 15 per cent will be ignored, when the building society is taking its cut. And any improvements that increase the value of the property will be taken into account when dividing the spoils after a sale.

The monthly repayments on a maximum 100 per cent loan of £75,000 would be £485.53 a month. In the outer metropolitan area, the maximum is £60,000. If nurses take

Reward through commissions

the deferred capital repayment plan and pay the interest only on the loan during the first five years, the monthly repayments drop to £382.83.

Many nurses are considering teaming up with others to purchase a house jointly. One company, Property



Georgia Diebel helped

Home Share Club, of Pall Mall, London, is negotiating with Brighton Health Authority on a plan that gives mortgages of up to three times their individual's incomes for up to four people. The interest rate will be 9.8 per cent. The offer would put the chance of buying a house within the range of most people on a modest income.

No charge would be made to staff for the service. Property Home Share Club would get their reward through commissions on endowment policies taken out on the mortgages.

The August deadline for joint purchase schemes to qualify for multiple tax relief is looming. At present, groups of people who team up to buy houses can each get tax relief on interest payments on mortgages up to £30,000. After the deadline, tax relief will be limited to £30,000 per property.

Peter Morris

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Holding operation for finance A Day

From next Friday it will become a criminal offence to carry on an investment business without full or part authorization under the Financial Services Act.

But not all investment advisers still trading from next Friday will eventually become authorized by the Securities and Investments Board or one of its recognized self-regulatory organizations. And it will not be easy to tell at a glance which these are.

Because of the work involved in processing all applications for authorization by next Friday, A Day, firms that do not get full authorization from the relevant regulatory body but had applied for it by February 27 can trade with "interim" authorization. They will not necessarily get full approval, but in the best traditions of British justice firms are considered innocent until proved guilty.

Originally, the SIB had intended to insist that firms with interim authorization should make this plain by splashing their status across business literature.

But it was later decided that this was impracticable, as

some firms might get full authorization in a week or two. There is some comfort to be drawn from the knowledge that although companies with interim authorization have not passed the ultimate test for investor protection they will be subject to the rules of the organization to which they have applied from A-Day.

The SIB has estimated that there are likely to be about 5,000 companies that will be sheltering under interim authorization. The honey moon period, in which those with interim authorization need not declare the fact, will not continue indefinitely. Those that have still not received full authorization by July 1 or the date when the competition scheme comes into effect - if that is later, and it almost certainly will be - will have to disclose their status.

In the meantime, investors can check the status of their adviser on the SIB's public register. But firms with interim authorization can ask to be kept off the list.

For information about registration, write to the SIB at 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London EC3 9JN. (01-929 3632), or consult Prestel.

Pensions pitfalls

A pensions lawyer believes insurance companies, banks and building societies will find it nearly impossible to sell personal pensions to members of company pension schemes and stay within the law.

The law referred to by Robin Ellison, a council member of the National Association of Pension Funds, is the Financial Services Act, which tells salesmen that they must know their clients and give them best advice.

Personal pensions salesmen will have to know so much about the company pension scheme, such as its history of benefits and expenses ratio, that they will find it almost impossible to justify advice to take up a personal pension and leave the company scheme.

"If an employee is sold a personal pension scheme and it later transpires that the company scheme would have been a better deal, then insurance companies are likely to suffer a series of complaints, and possibly litigation, which they may find difficult to defend," Mr Ellison told 500 pension fund managers at the NAPF's conference.

His company has produced a rather cheeky certificate designed for companies to hand out to company pension scheme members who are considering leaving for a personal pension. This "protection certificate" is headed: "Do not sign up for a personal pension unless the salesman or intermediary has signed this certificate."

This asks him to state that he has examined the company pension scheme, and in particular growth, benefit structure and overheads, and considered the financial needs of the applicant's family before coming to the conclusion that a personal pension is preferable.

It also asks him to state: "My commission/bonus in the first year from this sale will be £ and in subsequent years will be £ pa."

The NAPF, which represents 1,300 of the largest company pension schemes, covering more than 11 million employees, is stepping up its "Look Before You Leap" campaign.

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مركز الأصيل

FAMILY MONEY هكرامن الاصل

Watching out and paying less

Large discounts on household insurance are being offered to members of Britain's 50,000 or more neighbourhood watch schemes. These self-help organizations aimed at crime prevention have had a patchy success record and there are hopes that the newly announced discounts will make them more attractive.

The discounts are available through the 600 insurance brokers belonging to the Institute of Insurance Brokers (IIB), the registered brokers' professional organization. Cover is underwritten by The Swiss Insurance Company.

Under the scheme a neighbourhood watch member living in one of the riskiest inner city areas, including most of London and parts of Manchester and Liverpool, would pay £10 per £1,000 for contents cover, compared with £11.40 for a non-member. This reduces the annual bill



Building rates discounted too

for cover on £20,000 worth of contents by nearly £30.

A typical rate for inner cities charged by other insurers is £15 per £1,000 worth of cover, so it would be possible for neighbourhood watch members in one of the high-risk areas to reduce their premiums by more than 30 per cent by switching to the IIB scheme.

Someone living in an area classified as least risky under the IIB scheme, typically, the countryside and medium-sized or provincial towns, would pay £2.50 per £1,000 against a standard rate of £3. In the next band up, suburbs affected by occasional burglaries, the rates are £4 for members and £4.92 for non-members, while in the next tier up, the second most risky areas, the figures are £7.50 against £9.60.

The IIB says it will be possible for an individual neighbourhood watch scheme to be moved to a cheaper band if its members prove that it has a lower record for claims than other areas in its band. This means members of a watch scheme covering just two or three streets or a single housing estate may qualify for a cheaper rate.

As an extreme example, if members of a scheme in the

centre of London managed to reduce claims so much that they qualified for a re-rating to the least risky area, they would reduce their premiums to a quarter of their previous level.

Members of neighbourhood watches also qualify for a discount on buildings premiums. This rate is £1.20 per £1,000 for centrally heated homes or £1.30 for others, against typical figures in the industry of £1.80 or £2 per £1,000 of rebuilding costs.

The neighbourhood watch scheme is modelled on an American idea for crime prevention. It relies on vigilance by neighbours in reporting suspicious events. The results of a study of two London schemes commissioned by the Home Office and released last May said the incidence of crime increased while the areas were being monitored.

Alan Blows, chairman of the co-ordinating body for the 8,200 London watches, said

the scheme to which he belonged had cut local crime by 80 per cent at one point.

But neighbourhood watch was suffering from an image problem and this needed to be changed. People think the scheme is about "old ladies peeping from behind their curtains".

Andrew Paddick, the IIB's director-general, said yesterday that some watches had "excellent" results. Strivers, the company that will administer the new IIB scheme, said there had been a "very significant" reduction in claims from watch members compared with those from non-members.

John Brownhill, managing director of London insurance brokers Brownhill Morris, which already run a discount scheme for neighbourhood watch members, says it has also been successful in reducing claims. Neighbourhood watch members get a reduction when they join the

eral Accident, is also low — £1.60 per £1,000, coming down to £1.20 with no-claims bonuses.

Brownhill's scheme counts all types of claims on policies in assessing eligibility for its bonus, whereas the IIB scheme looks at only crime-related ones.

Royal Insurance is one of the few large companies to offer an incentive for watch members. Its Homeshield contents policy launched in 1986 offers them 5 per cent off contents premiums in addition to 15 per cent for a full security "work-out", including fitting of any devices recommended by a consultant, and 5 per cent for an alarm fitted by an approved company.

Royal's standard rates range from £3.20 per £1,000 in its lowest-rated areas to £15 per £1,000 in the toughest inner city areas.

Variation from place to place

Legal & General offers discounts of up to 20 per cent if you take certain household security precautions, but it is wary about doing anything specially for neighbourhood watch members.

"The quality of these organizations varies from place to place and depends on the skills of the individuals involved," says Gerald Eaton, the marketing development manager. "We have no statistical evidence to justify any movement in our rates for neighbourhood watch."

For the address of your nearest IIB broker, write to the institute at Barclays Bank Chambers, College Street, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 0NW (0933 410003)

Maria Scott

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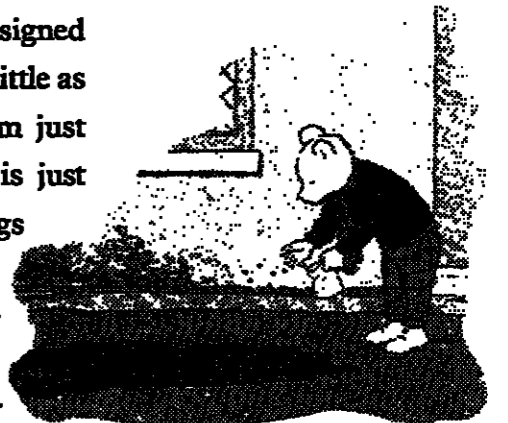
The Rupert Children's Unit Trust is from MIM Britannia, one of Britain's leading unit trust companies, with over £1 billion invested on behalf of 200,000 unitholders. Of course, you should remember that the price of units can go down as well as up. But as a long-term investment in some of Britain's most successful companies, we are confident that it will prove a worthwhile gift.

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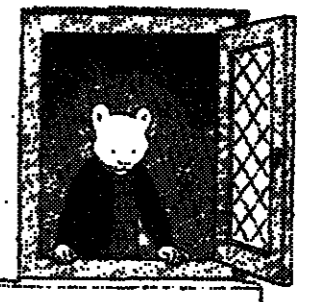
I'll dig the ground up with my spade, So fertile earth I will have made.



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Telecom's quiet lines

British Telecom, seldom coy about achievements, these days, has kept remarkably quiet about a collection of services that are a positive boon to anyone running a small business from home.

Using its Star system on just one new-style digital telephone, you can, for instance, take two calls at once, keeping one on hold or alternating between the two. This is ideal for somebody who makes a lot of calls and does not want people to telephone back and constantly find the line engaged.

To avoid missing an important call, the telephone can be programmed to divert all calls to another number. Another option allows three-way calling — that is, you and two other callers can link up for conferences.

But the service that might appeal most, not just to the cost-conscious self-employed but also to parents impoverished by their youngsters' telephone excesses, is called Outgoing Call Barring.

Depending on which code is dialled into the telephone, this will bar all calls except the emergency 999 and fault-reporting 151 numbers, or bar international or national calls and limit the use to local numbers. Similarly, if the user just wants peace and quiet, all incoming calls can be barred.

Then there are handy services such as short codes for numbers used frequently, a "repeat last call" option to save re-dialling, reminder calls to wake you up on a one-off or regular basis, and a way of having calls costed immediately.

Theoretically, Star Services are available nation-wide and



"Hold on while I divert all BT's calls to the hospital" have been in operation for about a year. In practice, they are still limited to areas that have gone digital — that is, exchanges that have been modernized from the old analogue to the new digital system, which should speed up connections and virtually eliminate crossed lines. Even at its current rate of updating

two or three a day, BT estimates the whole operation will take until the year 2000.

At the moment three million of the nearly 23 million lines in the UK are on digital exchanges, mostly in cities.

Meanwhile, it is often possible to obtain the services by changing your telephone number to one within the nearest digital exchange.

The new-style telephones require plug-in sockets, costing £25 to have installed. If the telephone alone has to be changed, BT charges a £15 call-out fee. After that, to obtain the full range of Star Services and Filofax your life Telecom-style, add £17 a quarter to your bill. A slimline package of call diversion, call waiting, repeat last call and code calling, and three-way calling costs you £13; or you can have individual services at £4 or £6 each per quarter.

Paul Brett, BT's product manager, explained that the company was trying to develop the telephone culture that has long existed in the United States.

But because we have not quite reached this advanced level of sophistication, helpful Telecom voices guide both user and caller through the intricacies of BT's new telephonic Jeeves.

Rachel Warren

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For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

Date	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+4	+4	+4	+6	+4		+26
2	+5	+6	+3	+2	+5		+21
3	+4	+5	+6	+5	+6		+26
4	+8	+6	+2	+4	+4		+24
5	+5	+5	+3	+6	+3		+22
6	+8	+8	+3	+5	+4		+28
7	+5	+5	+4	+2	+6		+22
8	+3	+5	+7	+3	+5		+23
9	+7	+5	+3	+3	+4		+22
10	+6	+4	+5	+5	+3		+23
11	+4	+6	+7	+2	+6		+25
12	+5	+4	+3	+7	+5		+24
13	+7	+7	+3	+3	+5		+25
14	+5	+5	+6	+2	+7		+25
15	+6	+5	+2	+1	+6		+20
16	+7	+5	+2	+3	+3		+20
17	+4	+4	+5	+7	+4		+24
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39	+6	+4	+4	+3	+4		+21
40	+7	+7	+2	+2	+3		+21
41	+4	+4	+3	+7	+5		+23
42	+5	+5	+3	+2	+3		+18
43	+7	+5	+3	+5	+5		+25
44	+5	+4	+6	+2	+6		+23

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Rupert in the City

Rupert Bear, that venerable cartoon pensioner, will act as mascot for Britain's first unit trust specifically designed to attract savings for children.

The new fund - the Rupert Bear trust, launched by MIM Britannia this week - may not take pocket money of 50p a week, but will allow children, or more probably their parents, godparents and families, to invest as little as a £50 lump sum or to start monthly savings plans for £10 a week.

The new fund will be almost as cautious as the Highway Code. Even if the managers do not guarantee to stop, look and listen before every decision they make, they will invest only in the huge companies whose shares are covered by the FT-SE 100 index. The stress will be on

long-term growth to provide an ostrich-sized nest egg perhaps on the child's 18th or 21st birthday.

Banks and building societies actually aim to attract children's own savings, whereas MIM Britannia is concerned with savings for children, and therefore an adult market.

All the same, the standard gimmicks are there. If you want a "free" black and yellow Rupert scarf for the child, just invest £400 in the new fund. If you up the stakes to £800, there will be a teddy of Rupert himself. Finally, the child will get both if you hit the jackpot with £1,200.

If it is beyond you, you can always buy them at £5 and £10 respectively.

Bank and building society accounts may be useful as a way of teaching children thrift on their birthday and pocket money finance, but on past form unit trusts are far more likely to provide worthwhile money over 10 years or more.

The Rupert Trust is a UK growth fund under its glossy wrapping, and figures from the Unit Trust Association show a dramatic contrast between the fortunes of investors who have put money into funds of this kind in the past, and those who have left money with building societies.

Anyone who put £1,000 into a UK growth trust 10 years ago and whose results were absolutely in the middle of the performance tables would now have a nest egg worth £5,068. Money in a typical building society share account, where all the interest has been re-invested, would now be worth £2,083, or well under half as much.

Clearly there can be no guarantee of how unit trusts will do in the future. Banks and building societies are not particularly good places for children to hold money anyway. Tax-paid interest may be very convenient if you pay tax, but the system ensures that the Government deducts tax that very few children owe, and then refuses them any refunds.

INVAC, the National Savings Investment account, is a better idea for short-term money, as it provides its 8.5 per cent interest without deductions. So in this context Rupert Bear has economic logic, as well as Tiger Lily by his side - and charges for the new fund are in line with those elsewhere, though the minimum sums it will take are far smaller.

Rupert Bear himself first appeared in 1925, so he seems less up-to-the-minute than up-to-the-century. But he may still evoke a mood of rosy nostalgia among people who grew up with Rupert as a household name. That is just the condition for inducing generosity.

Tom Tickell



A gift for Rupert: part of the new unit trust fund's publicity

Now the Brits get bonuses in the air



Boredom on board: In Britain the relief can now be free flight tickets for the loyal traveller

For years European airlines have relied on the quality of their in-flight catering and vintage wines to secure customer loyalty. Now Northwest Airlines has brought free flight tickets, so common in North America, to the UK.

With competition from the European Community hotting up in the airline world, greater incentives seem likely to be the order of the day. It is possible that such schemes as free flight tickets will attract the attention of the Inland Revenue, which may regard such a "facility" as a taxable perk. However, the red tape in tracking down such benefits in a wealth of travel agents' papers may continue to work to the loyal traveller's benefit.

While motorists collect coupons when they buy petrol, airline passengers collect credit miles that can be traded in for free air travel. When the traveller joins the Northwest "Worldperks" scheme, for instance, he has 5,000 miles credited as a starter bonus. On a flight from Gatwick to Boston return, the traveller would have a credit of 6,566 miles.

When 20,000 miles have been clocked up, the airline gives a complimentary round-trip on its US and Canadian network. For 40,000 miles you get a free transatlantic round-trip ticket.

If you fly business - sometimes called executive - class, an extra 25 per cent of the miles flown is added, while

first-class qualifies for a 50 per cent bonus. At present Northwest is offering a free round-trip ticket to Hawaii for just 60,000-credit miles.

Many American airlines offer similar packages to US citizens and are quietly opening up to UK travellers. Continental and Piedmont give 2,500 credit miles on starting, TWA awards 3,000, and Delta and PanAm give 5,000. United grants 3,000 but adds a further 2,000 when the first flight is purchased.

Not to be outdone, Virgin Atlantic's Upper Class to Miami (£651 each way) and Newark, New Jersey (£646 each way), plus £15 airport taxes in both cases, gives a free economy ticket worth £119-£269 that is valid for 12 months. However, reservations may be made only on the day of departure at peak times.

Many schemes also give credits for hotel bookings if they are made when air tickets are bought. Northwest gives 500 credit miles for every hotel stay and is linked with the Hyatt, Marriott and Radisson hotel chains.

Car hire similarly qualifies for bonus miles. Most US airlines grant a further 500 credit miles for making a booking at the same time as ordering the air ticket.

A key element here is the point for ticket purchase and flight. If it is in Europe, the linked carriers have a far less generous allowance. For every 60,000 miles, KLM will give one economy return ticket across to the United States but BA requires 75,000 miles to be built up.

Apart from free travel, the airlines will upgrade a class for frequent flyers. When 10,000 miles are reached with United and TWA, passengers may move from economy to executive or from executive to first class. Lufthansa grants an upgrading after 20,000 miles on its transatlantic flights. The mileages applying at Air France and BA are 30,000 and 40,000 respectively.

Children also qualify for the full credit miles scheme. Usually it is only "fly-drive" special economy packages that do not attract this valuable perk.

Chauffeur-driven cars to take travellers to the airport are another facility offered by an increasing number of airlines. They include United Arab Emirates, Virgin's Upper Class and Qantas (with complimentary hotel accommodation at Heathrow for those on the early flight to Sydney and Melbourne).

A helicopter service is free through BA, PanAm, Swissair and TWA to Manhattan from New York.

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Aids insurance warning

Insurance companies will get much tougher about the people they take into group schemes, possibly departing from previous practice and demanding a medical on every individual.

This warning comes from the actuaries, The Wyatt Company, providing more evidence of the effect of Aids on life insurance.

In the past fortnight life offices have begun to raise the premiums on term assurance for individuals - the simplest form of life cover, which pays out only on death.

But according to Wyatt, a premium increase is on the way for group schemes, often offered by companies to employees as a perk at rates lower than individuals would pay if they approached the life company alone. This would also affect the cost of group life cover linked to a company pension scheme.

Wyatt says that although this will not touch pension benefits or the cost of buying term assurance, whether standing on its own, or linked to a mortgage, or for disability or permanent health insurance, you should not delay your application.

Meanwhile, as widely predicted, Sun Alliance, which underwrites about 10 per cent of term assurance policies for individuals, announced increases this week in premiums for men and women. For men, the increases put premiums up by more than 150 per cent in some cases.

For example, a 29-year-old wanting average cover of £65,000 will be paying £15.04 on a 15-year term, a 156 per cent increase. For women, the average increase is 25 per cent.

Sun Alliance's move follows Zurich Life's announcement last week that it was increasing its rates by as much as 300 per cent for men. Commercial Union is expected to make an announcement next week.

Maria Scott

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

Pity the poor clients

Are solicitors being plundered by an army of consultants who steal their time as well as the partners' profits? asks Edward Fennell



How do you solicitors ever get to see clients these days? Aren't you too busy dealing with higher things? To understand what I mean, let's pop into a typical solicitor's waiting-room. It might be in London. But it could just as easily be Luton or Llandudno.

As you see every seat is taken and apart from me, the flanneling journalist sitting stily in the corner, the room glistens with the glossy features and beaming faces which radiate the word "Consultant".

In the centre sits a suave marketing man full of bright ideas about which niche should be carved out next. Beyond him, in the neat business suit, sits a shrewd lady from the PR agency bearing this week's re-designed logo. Next to the window, self-assured as ever, sits the management consultant brought in to re-organize the office layout. And leaning on the desk, drumming away at the portable computer, sits the IT adviser trying to work out how much to bill for this month.

And that is just in the morning. In the afternoon there will be a fresh lot. The man from the training specialists, the woman from the recruitment consultancy, the architect to re-design the office, the accountant to balance the budget.

If any clients dare show their faces they are soon put in their place and sent round to the tradesman's entrance. After all, let's not forget it, we've got a business to run around here.

So is the profession being overrun by outsiders? Is it being plundered by other professionals who steal the time as well as the profits of the partners?

David Andrews of the David Andrews Partnership would probably give a cautious "yes" and "no" answer to both questions. As the former managing partner of Clifford Turner, he has inside knowledge of the difficulties facing the modern practice. He now runs a comprehensive management consultancy ser-

vice aimed at lawyers and would be the first to acknowledge that there are a lot of self-appointed experts out there trying to climb on the legal bandwagon to offer advice of dubious value.

However, he also argues convincingly that lawyers are going through a period of great change and certainly need advice so long as it is of the right kind and from the right people.

"I believe that many firms are drifting at the moment and not really sure where they are going," said Mr Andrews. "In fact, some years ago I began to fear that the profession was in danger of hitting bad times because the partnership system was antiquated and not suited to running the large businesses which many practices had become. Even in large and apparently well-run firms the level of disorder is often chronic."

To get to grips with these issues training is vital and, among other things, Mr Andrews provides intensive two-day seminars for managing partners which introduce them to subjects such as financial management and control, people management, and the marketing of legal services.

With a maximum of 15 participants there is a strong emphasis on discussion and debate so that by the end of the session each partner should be able to draw up an individual Action Plan.

The problem of introducing information technology is typical of the problems which Mr Andrews and his colleagues help to tackle. "Law is probably the most information-intensive profession of all yet it still hasn't got its word-processing sorted out. Partners haven't got to grips with the advantages and disadvantages which information technology can bring.

But unless they do they will be heading for catastrophe. When he turns to marketing and advertising, Mr Andrews counsels against getting advice from firms who don't understand the legal environment.

"The marketing of legal services, for example, is a subtle thing and you can't just apply the standard techniques. It's important to be working with someone who talks the same language as you."

Someone who would agree with that is Ian Cooper of Ian Cooper Communications, the Yorkshire-based consultancy which specialises in providing public relations services to solicitors.

From May 1, Mr Cooper will be running a PR Hotline service on a subscription basis to enable small to medium-sized firms to phone through for telephone advice on any PR or marketing issue. The Hotline has emerged out of Mr Cooper's experience of advising more than 20 law firms on how to run their PR. He knows the business pretty well, and as a former law lecturer he also knows enough about the law and the Law Society to recognize the pitfalls into which his clients might fall.

"I still see an amazing number of brochures which are in breach of the Law Society's rules," said Mr Cooper, "and I suspect that most of them have been produced by mainstream PR companies which just haven't bothered to research the field properly."

Both Mr Cooper and Mr Andrews feel that the most profound problem facing most firms is that in the new atmosphere created by the Financial Services Act, the relaxation of professional regulations and the dogged persistence of merger-mania, many firms are confused and undecided about where they are going.

"With tongue in cheek, I sometimes ask new clients to show me their business plan," said Mr Andrews, "and in many cases they simply have no idea what I am talking about."

An organization which is keen to help is Broad Street Associates which runs a professional marketing service aimed specifically at solicitors and accountants. According to John de Forte of Broad Street the solicitors should follow the example of the accountants and aim to offer far more legal "products" tied into developments in particular industries.

"For example, I don't think that there is much point in offering a specialist service in intellectual property as such but there would be real demand for say, technologically related intellectual property," said Mr de Forte.

So by all means get a consultant, but think about it and make sure you get someone who knows what they are talking about... Hey, I wonder if there is anyone out there who is a consultant on consultants?

Law Report April 23 1988 Court of Appeal

Reputation protects plastic lemon

Reckitt and Colman Products Ltd v Borden Inc and Others Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Bingham [Judgment April 21]

Potential competitors of a product marketed in a distinctive get-up might well be advised to enter the field quickly, if at all, before the reputation of the original product had been established, the Court of Appeal observed in finding that the manufacturers of JIF lemon juice had as a matter of fact established a proprietary right in the particular get-up of their product.

The court in a reserved judgment dismissed an appeal by the defendants, Borden Inc, Sazy International NV and Paterson Jenks plc, from a decision of Mr Justice Walton (The Times June 10, 1987) granting to the plaintiffs, Reckitt and Colman Products Ltd, injunctions against the second and third defendants in two *quia timet* actions for passing off.

Mr Geoffrey Hobbs and Mr Jonathan D. C. Turner for the defendants; Mr Peter Prescott for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that since about 1956 the plaintiffs had sold lemon juice here for domestic use under the brand name JIF in a particular type of plastic squeeze container which resembled in shape, size and colour a small natural lemon. The product became known as "JIF lemons".

On December 4, 1985 the plaintiffs issued the writ in the first action and moved for an injunction shortly afterwards. The defendants gave an undertaking not to use judgment in the action or further order to advertise or offer to sell lemon juice in a lemon shaped plastic container in a form known as "Mark I".

During the succeeding months the defendants devised two other forms of get-up for their proposed squeeze lemons which were further removed from the form of the get-up of the JIF lemon. Those forms came to be known as "Mark II" and "Mark III".

On May 23, 1986 the writ in the second action was issued claiming the same relief as before, but based on "Mark II" and "Mark III".

The pleadings in both actions were in substantially the same form. It was alleged that the plaintiffs had acquired a substantial reputation and goodwill in the JIF get-up and that the defendants intended to market their lemon juice in forms of packaging which were deceptive and colourable imitations of the JIF get-up.

The judge's findings of fact were, *inter alia*: 1 There would be no difficulty in a careful shopper coming to the conclusion that neither the Mark I, II or III was a JIF lemon; it would be merely a question of his reading the label.

2 Nevertheless, the effect of the introduction of any of the defendants' lemons on to the market would be bound to result in many housewives purchasing them in the belief that they were obtaining the well known and liked JIF brand.

3 The crucial point of reference for a shopper who wished to purchase a JIF squeeze lemon was the lemon shape itself. Virtually no, if any, attention was paid to the label which that lemon bore.

In the result, the judge, who thought that fraudulent intent on the part of the second and third defendants had been established, granted an injunction against them.

On the appeal, four essential issues had emerged: 1 Had the plaintiffs established that the particular get-up of JIF lemons had become associated in the minds of the public exclusively with its business? 2 Did the second and third defendants fraudulently intend by the get-up of the Mark I, Mark II and Mark III lemons to induce members of the public to believe that their lemons were the products of the manufacturer of JIF lemons? 3 Even if there was no such fraudulent intention did the get-up of the defendants' lemons amount to a representation that their lemons were the products of the manufacturer of JIF lemons? 4 Was it likely that a substantial number of members of the public would be misled by the get-up of the defendants' lemons into believing that their lemons were the products of the manufacturer of JIF?

If the answer to issues (1) (3) and (4) was in the affirmative then, in accordance with the established principles of the law relating to passing off, the plaintiffs would succeed and the appeal would fail. The relevance of issue (2) was that an affirmative answer to it would assist the plaintiffs on issue (3).

The first requirement in a passing-off action based on the get-up of the plaintiffs' goods was that the plaintiffs should have such a reputation in the goods that the get-up was distinctive of them and recognized as being so by a substantial number of the relevant members of the public.

J. B. Williams Co v H. Bromley & Co Ltd ((1909) 26 RPC 765) and *Payton & Co Ltd v Snelling, Lampard & Co Ltd* ((1900) 17 RPC 48) were clear authority for the proposition that a trader who introduced what he claimed to be a get-up of his goods in an original form could not claim an interest of a proprietary nature in those features common to the trade.

However, the judge found as a fact that none of the competitors of the JIF lemon was in common use in the trade.

Even assuming that the lemon colour and shape of the container of the JIF lemon were to be regarded as descriptive of the contents of the container, the shape and colour of the container were well capable in law of becoming so associated with the products of the plaintiffs by use over a period of time that they acquired a secondary

meaning as indicating the products of the plaintiffs and of no other trader.

Also, even assuming that the colour and shape of the container were to be regarded as having a function to perform (by indicating its contents), that did not preclude the plaintiffs as a matter of law from having acquired the exclusive right to the particular get-up of its JIF lemons, which his Lordship considered included their colour and shape.

In the light of the authorities, including *Bronnley, Payton, Reddaway v Banham* ((1896) AC 199), *Cellular Clothing Co Ltd v Maxton & Murray* ((1899) AC 326), *William Edge & Sons Ltd* ((1911) RPC 582) and *Jarman & Platt v J. Barger Ltd* ((1917) FSR 260), his Lordship would reject Mr Hobbs' submission that the plaintiffs could not, as a matter of law, have established a proprietary right by way of reputation and attendant goodwill, in the particular get-up of the JIF lemon; and his Lordship would regard such get-up as including the colour and shape of the JIF lemon.

Having dealt with the points of law to which issue (1) gave rise, his Lordship said that in relation to that issue the factual position was clear. The judge found as a fact that many housewives understood JIF to be a brand of lemon juice made by a particular manufacturer as opposed to a mere generic name. There was no reason to interfere with his findings of fact in that respect.

But, notwithstanding that the reputation of the plaintiffs attached to the JIF lemon, there would be nothing to prevent other traders from selling plastic lemons containing lemon juice provided that they distinguished their lemons by the shape, size and colour or by other means from the JIF lemon sufficiently to prevent potential customers from being misled.

As to issue (2), the judge stated that his intention simply with the decision on the part of the defendants to proceed with the launch of their lemons in the knowledge that persons would purchase the defendants' lemons under the impression that they were JIF lemons.

In the context of fraudulent intention the judge both misdirected himself and, unwittingly, gave a somewhat unfair summary of the effect of the relevant evidence.

On the authorities there could be no doubt that a trader who contemplated putting a new product on the market in competition with another trader, who had already entered the market, was entitled, when devising the get-up of his new product, to assume that mem-

bers of the public would exercise a certain, if limited, degree of perspicacity in distinguishing the two products.

If he erroneously over-estimated that degree he might well find himself in law liable for passing off, since fraudulently intended was not part of the cause of action for that tort.

If, however, his overestimate was a genuine one and he genuinely considered that those members of the public who exercised the relevant degree of perspicacity would not be deceived, he could not fairly be said to have had a fraudulent intention.

There was not sufficient evidence to justify a finding of fraudulent intent against any of the defendants and they would be absolved of that charge.

Turning to issues (3) and (4), his Lordship said that the question whether the use of a particular get-up for his goods amounted to a representation that his goods were the goods of another trader was essentially a question of fact for the judge.

In the light of the judge's findings of fact, the defendants were in some difficulty unless they could show that the judge, in making those findings, misdirected himself in law.

The judge found as a fact that under present conditions purchasers of plastic squeeze lemons paid virtually no attention to the label which they bore and, by inference, that as a matter of law the defendants were not entitled to expect the hypothetical purchasers, who had to be postulated for the purpose of the present passing-off actions, to pay any attention to such labels.

Since the plaintiffs had over many years established a *de facto* monopoly in the UK market in the sale of small plastic squeeze lemons, it was natural that many members of the public could, without more, assume that the defendants' lemons, if they were put on the market, were the products of the manufacturer of JIF lemons, because they would not know of anyone else who was making small squeeze lemons.

Potential competitors in that class of case might be advised to enter the field quickly, if at all, before a reputation had been established.

There were no grounds for interfering with the judge's conclusion that both issues (3) and (4) fell to be answered in the affirmative sense.

Accordingly, the plaintiffs succeeded on issues (1), (3) and (4) and the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Glidewell delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Bingham agreed.

Solicitors: Beachcroft; Woodham Smith.

Judge should give reasons for not giving accomplice direction

Regina v Wilson Where a trial judge decided not to give an accomplice direction to a jury, following the principle in *R v Royce-Bendley* ((1974) 50 Cr App R 51), he should state his reasons for that unusual course of action in open court after the retirement of the jury to consider their verdict and in the presence of the shorthand writer, in order to avoid later confusion.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Farnham and Mr Justice Tucker) so stated on April 14 in

accepting the withdrawal of an appeal by Thomas Wilson following his conviction on eight counts concerning the importation, possession, and supply of controlled drugs at Liverpool Crown Court (Judge Morris Jones and a jury) on November 11, 1986 on which he had been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of £10,000.

MR JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that evidence given by an accomplice had been partly favourable to the appellant. The judge had decided, after consult-

ing counsel, not to give an accomplice direction to the jury on the ground that to do so would be more harmful to the defence than if no direction had been given.

There had been no reference in the original notice of appeal to the evidence of the accomplice but the Registrar of Criminal Appeals had noted that the usual direction had not been given and the Court of Appeal had expected argument on that point. A further complication was that counsel for the appellant had not acted for him in the court below.

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Vertical text on the left margin containing various small notices and advertisements.

Strands Of Gold to recoup losses

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

STRANDS OF GOLD can become Peter Scudamore's 160th winner of the season by capturing the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park today.

The champion jockey has never won what is one of his most coveted prizes.

But having seen how well his mount was going in the Grand National before coming down to the track, he has an excellent chance of making up for lost time now.

Strands Of Gold being the season's winner, Lean An Aghaidh, when he came down.

With Lean An Aghaidh in the field again, along with the heroic grey Desert Orchid and Run And Skip, today's race is bound to be run at full tilt from the start.

The presence of these other front runners will make life that much more difficult for Desert Orchid who headily likes to

second race for his present trainer, Martin Pipe.

The first was the Ritz Club National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham where he finished fifth behind Aquilifer, Becko, Van Trappe and stable companion Torada.

That performance was all the more creditable when one realises that he was almost brought to a standstill when Arctic Stream fell in his path six furlongs from home.

At Liverpool, Strands Of Gold was going far better than Ge-A-A and last year's winner, Lean An Aghaidh, when he came down.

What is invariably one of the most enjoyable days racing of the year also features the Gordon Richards EBF Stakes.

GLACIAL STORM (4.15) is set to win the former while **MOST WELCOME (4.45)** is expected to win the latter.

Having already finished seven lengths behind Doyson in the Craven Stakes this spring it will be interesting to see how Galizna fares against Glacial Storm, a career on a high note by beating Zelfhi, the recent Craven winner, in the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury.

In receipt of 3lb, Sturdy's promising young half-brother Glacial Storm looks the other danger.

The word from Newmarket is that last year's Derby and Champion Stakes second, Most Welcome, has been most impressive in his work this spring.

In the circumstances, he looks a worthy pair selection to win, albeit at short odds.

Raykover, who was the subject of a stewards' inquiry after his first run of the season at Newmarket 11 days ago, takes

out again for the Esher Cup. Luckily, the lameness which caused him to falter at a crucial stage that day was short-lived.

Today, though, he might find the back of giving weight to both Apache and Panda Prince beyond him.

PANDA PRINCE is preferred in the belief that Apache may prefer a bit more give in the ground.

A win for STEEL'S in the Sandown Park Two-Year-Old Maiden Stakes will highlight the chance that WINDSOR PARK has of giving the Queen her first winner of the season at Beverly later in the afternoon, in the British Olympic Appeal Stakes.

Blinkered first time

SANDOWN 4.45 American Vespene, 5.20 Holy Spirit, 5.25 Desert Orchid, 5.30 Desert Orchid, 5.35 Desert Orchid, 5.40 Desert Orchid, 5.45 Desert Orchid, 5.50 Desert Orchid, 5.55 Desert Orchid, 6.00 Desert Orchid, 6.05 Desert Orchid, 6.10 Desert Orchid, 6.15 Desert Orchid, 6.20 Desert Orchid, 6.25 Desert Orchid, 6.30 Desert Orchid, 6.35 Desert Orchid, 6.40 Desert Orchid, 6.45 Desert Orchid, 6.50 Desert Orchid, 6.55 Desert Orchid, 7.00 Desert Orchid, 7.05 Desert Orchid, 7.10 Desert Orchid, 7.15 Desert Orchid, 7.20 Desert Orchid, 7.25 Desert Orchid, 7.30 Desert Orchid, 7.35 Desert Orchid, 7.40 Desert Orchid, 7.45 Desert Orchid, 7.50 Desert Orchid, 7.55 Desert Orchid, 8.00 Desert Orchid, 8.05 Desert Orchid, 8.10 Desert Orchid, 8.15 Desert Orchid, 8.20 Desert Orchid, 8.25 Desert Orchid, 8.30 Desert Orchid, 8.35 Desert Orchid, 8.40 Desert Orchid, 8.45 Desert Orchid, 8.50 Desert Orchid, 8.55 Desert Orchid, 9.00 Desert Orchid, 9.05 Desert Orchid, 9.10 Desert Orchid, 9.15 Desert Orchid, 9.20 Desert 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